

O C T O B E R 2 0 0 9

ON YOUR LEFT...



A NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB

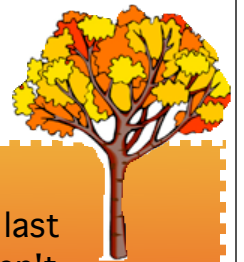
CAN YOU NAME THIS CENTRAL IOWA CITY?



Carefully
study
these
pictures....

If you guessed Marshalltown, Iowa, you would be right. This is one of those moments when one must look back at where we were three years ago and realize we have made a great deal of progress. Take a bike ride down Main Street, and try out the lanes. You will also notice other changes in Main Street as well, motorists have improved their ability to parallel park, and people are more careful and courteous at intersections. Also, we should notice few automobile accidents in the downtown area. The final step is to educate the cycling community to use the lanes and the bike racks.

As a note, upon close inspection, one will notice the lanes are not complete in other areas. The city has assured the Imagine Committee that the lanes will be complete in the Spring of 1010.



Tip of the Month

It is October, and in case you hadn't noticed, it is getting cooler. Get those last few warm miles in before you break out the winter riding clothes (if you haven't already). Now is a good time to evaluate your warm weather biking season.

Were you happy with biking this summer? Did you meet or exceed your goals? How was your mileage? Take out pencil and paper and evaluate your warm weather riding season. Place the evaluation with your warm weather clothing where you will find it next spring. It may give you motivation to reach higher come Spring.

Funding The Linn Creek Recreational Trail Connection

Funding to connect the Linn Creek Recreational Trail with the Melbourne Trail is moving ahead at a slow, but steady, pace. At this time, funds include \$1,021,000 from the state and Region 6, \$89,794 from Marshall County, \$80,050 from anonymous private donors, and \$21,000 from clubs, foundations, and corporations. This makes a total of \$1,211,844. The estimated cost of the completed project is \$1,476,000--which leaves \$264,156 yet to be raised. The project is still waiting to hear from other possible grant applications. Of course, any contribution from private individuals, clubs or organizations would be greatly appreciated, and if interested, they should contact Mike Stegmann at the Marshall County Conservation Commission.

Marty Wymore, Executive Director of Region 6 Planning Commission is hopeful that the project will be ready for a May 2010 bid opening and construction will be done in the summer of 2011.

It will be a great day when walkers, runners, and bikers can finally get to use the Melbourne Trail and become the envy of all the motorists on Highway 330. :-)

EDITORIAL

On November 6th, IVBC will hold its annual meeting, which means we are in need of a slate of club officers. We have just learned that Kris McKibben needs a break and will not serve as president next year. It has been my privilege and honor to serve under the leadership of Kris, and I want to thank Kris for her commitment to biking and IVBC.

IVBC is like all volunteer organizations, finding club officers can be a real challenge, and we find a few people in the same positions for several years. That is not all bad; however the major issue is "burn out." The one sure cure for burn out is appreciation. As Dana said so well, "The MS 150 riders appreciated the support they received from IVBC. We may not hear it from other people, but we heard it 138 times in one weekend, and that feels so good."

If you can't serve on a committee, let those who do serve know that you appreciate what they do to make biking better in our community and state. If you would be willing to serve as on a committee, let us know; we would love to work with you. Current officers would be more than willing to work with you as you learn a new position. --Charlie Smith

Brochure for Bike Lanes, Routes, and Trails

Bob Peterson and a committee has been working on a brochure that will map the bike routes and bike lanes in the community. Also, the brochure will include several graphics demonstrating techniques for riding in traffic. The brochures will be placed in key locations throughout the community. We will soon place an e-copy on our web site, marshalltownbikeclub.com

Just For Fun... So you think you can ride!

If you haven't already seen this YouTube video, you will be AMAZED at the talent of this young man. Check it out.....

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1137883380?bctid=21337502001>



CLASSIFIED ADS

If you want buy, sell, or maybe just give away something, let IVBC know, and we will post the advertisement. Send item description to [IVBC newsletter](#) or call 752-3929.

5K/10K Race Update

This is the 24th year that the Bike Club has helped with the 5K/10K Race during Oktoberfest. We have come a long way since the first race back in 1986. In the beginning, we recruited about 20 to 25 volunteers who would jump from early corners to later corners to control the traffic for the entire race. Now, we are able to get some 80 volunteers to help, allowing us to cover every corner and 3 bikers to help with the 10K lead male and female and a biker to ride sweep making sure every corner is covered before the race begins. This year we added two helpers at the finish line to separate the 10K and 5K runners. There were also 7 reserve police officers, 2 of these officers were on bikes, who helped cover the heavy traffic corners that were not part of the original traffic control system.

The race route has remained consistent for about the last 10 years. The only change made was the 5K runners were directed to turn at 7th St and Summit in the beginning and are now turned at 8th St and Summit. Someone figured out that the 7th and Summit turn did not make the race a 5K event so the change was made to reflect a true 5K race. The first race started at the hospital and crossed E. Main and 3rd Ave. That was quite a challenge.

Doug Beals does a good job setting up the race and does a lot of work both before and after the event to make it run smoothly. I hope Doug is in charge of the race again next year.

About 175 runners took part in the 5K portion of the race and about 70 – 10K runners ran the course. Thank you to all the volunteers for their help in making the race traffic control run so well. The majority of the volunteers came from the Iowa Valley Bicycle Club. Volunteers also came from the morning Kiwanis with the help of Joe Robertson. Larry Park recruited help from the Optimists and other people he knew. The weather was kind of questionable, but the temperature was about 57 degrees. We did, however, have a couple of pop-ups from the club that helped keep some volunteers dry during the pre-race rain. The parade started with a steady mist falling, but it quit after a while. The bike club did not participate in the parade this year, maybe next year.

There was a lot of traffic congestion at the corner of 9th St and W Main. Larry and Joynell Raymon were controlling the traffic at that corner. Larry had some concerns about the congestion in that area and wrote a 2 page suggestion letter to help alleviate the problem at that corner. I forwarded the letter to the Oktoberfest Committee, and they are going to discuss the problem at their wrap-up meeting.

One of our most faithful volunteers failed to show up this year. We could not figure out what happened because he always volunteers for the traffic control and then takes part in the parade. We did not know what happened until we got home and listened to our phone messages. Mark Smith had been involved in a hit-and-run auto accident Friday evening and did not feel well enough to do traffic control and march in the parade. We hope Mark is feeling alright now.

Thanks to all the volunteers, including Sara, for putting up with my writing and the good job she does each year. She got up about 3:15 to start the coffee. Thanks to those who jumped in and helped put up the pop-ups when it began to rain and to those who helped take them down in the end. Dan Brandt recruited the police reserves to help again this year, however, although Dan has done this for many years, this was Dan's last year to help because he will be retiring from the police reserves. We hope everybody who helped can come back next year. Thanks! -By Tom Kurth

We need to hear from YOU

Most bike clubs are organized with one main focus, a common interest in riding a bicycle. IVBC is certainly no different from all other bike clubs, and currently IVBC has a need to re-focus on our common interest. The question is, "Are we doing all we can to meet the common interests of ALL our memberships with regard to riding a bicycle?" We have worked hard to make sure Marshalltown and Marshall County is a bicycle friendly location, but can we do more to encourage and facilitate bicycle rides that meet the many different individuals of the club and community? Plan to attend the yearly meeting in November or call Charlie at 752-3929.

Iowa Valley Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 927
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

IVBC Oct - Nov Calendar			
Date	Time	Event	Place
Oct 18	9:00 am	Fall Foliage Ride Ames-Ogden Loop 70 mi. - bring a snack and/or a energy bar and fluids. Ogden 35 mi is first food break.	Jack Trice Stadium Parking Lot
Oct 25	9:00 am	Saturday Morning Ride - Distance and direction determined by those riders that show.	Cultural Center Parking M'town
Nov 6	6:00 pm	IVBC Annual Mtg - Spaghetti Dinner - Program - Election of 2010 Club Officers All members welcome.	UAW Hall Iowa Ave, M'town