

On Your Left!



Past & Upcoming News From the Iowa Valley Bicycle Club

Volume 31 Number 4

September 2006

Message from the President by: Kris McKibben

Hello Cycling Friends,

As this season draws to a close, I like to think about the past year. Has it been a good one? Has it been a successful one? I think that for the IVBC it's been mostly a good year. Last January, a group got together to try to formulate some goals for 2006. Two things came out of that meeting. One, that we should build a calling tree so that one person didn't get left with phone calls that we do to remind our members of functions. That never really got implemented. Second, we spent a lot of man-hours on the phone doing a survey with members about what kind of rides they might participate in if the club would get some evening rides organized. This information was put together and some Tues/Thurs. rides were started. These were publicized in our newsletters and website and some e-mails too. For some reason, they were not successful and by August, the board decided to scrap them. So, despite our failings with some new ideas, the old tried and true ones still were successful. The 2 camp-outs were well attended. Marshmallo was also a profitable ride and Ragbrai had another good year. Members still volunteer for traffic control for the Cornman Triathlon and Oktoberfest. Also, IVBC made several contributions to our regular projects. And let's not forget, the monthly meetings have been well attended this year. We have also scored big with Chris Horner coming to speak to us on Nov. 22. Thanks to Chris and Megan Elliott.

In looking to 2007, I have some winter speakers lined up for our meetings. It helps to pass the off months when there's not a lot of biking business to do. First, in December we have the Marshalltown Convention & Visitor Bureau coming. The city has a new logo and we can learn how to promote M'town. Then in January, Representative Mark Smith will come and speak to us. He is one of IVBC's very own! March has Marty Wymore coming to update us on the Highland Acres Road/Trail project and in April, Chuck Offenburger will come to fire us up for the spring cycling season!! If you still can't get enough, consider attending the Iowa Bicycle Coalition's Bike Summit in February.

In closing, remember to check out the upcoming events list. The 11th annual Tour de Lights is Dec. 9. This will be at the Fisher Com. Center at 5 pm. Lights and helmet are a must for this one. Hot chocolate and chili after the ride with door prizes.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and everyone of you!! As you look forward to another cycling season, think about how you might make it a good and successful year for both yourself and the IVBC!!!

See you on the Tour!! Kris

Note from the editor: A reminder to keep an eye on the IVBC website at www.Marshalltownbikeclub.com. Rita does an excellent job keeping it up to date between newsletters with news of activities coming up and reports on things that have taken place. Rita also post items on our website and links to other sites, of general interest to the bicycling community. Also, I will continue putting out reminder e-mails around a week before up-coming events. Dana Bresler

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Always Wear A Helmet



IVBC Annual Meeting by: Dana Bresler

The IVBC Annual Meeting was held on November 3 at the UAW Hall here in Marshalltown. We had a nice spaghetti meal and lots of deserts. Thanks to our President, Kris McKibben, for organizing the dinner and to all who helped cook, serve and clean up afterwards. Thanks also to those who brought deserts. Everything was delicious.

After the meal we had a short meeting at which Kris reviewed the club activities and accomplishments for 2006. Then we elected the club officers for 2007. The only significant change was that Tony Etcher asked to step down as RAGBRAI Chairman.

2007 IVBC Board Members & Officers:

President	Kris McKibben
Vice President	Tony Etcher
Secretary	Ann Bresler
Treasurers	Charlie & Rita Smith
Newsletter	Dana Bresler
Membership	Dana Bresler
Quartermasters	Bob Peterson & Terry Briggs
Ride Coordinators	Terry Briggs & John Eich
Marshmallo Coor	Lanny Nuese
RAGBRAI Comm Chair	Tom Kurth
RAGBRAI Ticket Coor	Dana Bresler
Publicity	Sara Kurth
Webmaster	Rita Smith
Ride Right Rep	Brian Juel
Trails Rep	Charlie Smith
Historian	Tom Kurt

After the meeting, Charlie Smith, Terry Briggs, Bob Peterson, and I showed slides of our Lewis and Clark trip to Montana this August. db

Thank You Tony Etcher!

Tony Etcher has been the Chairman of the RAGBRAI Committee since Ann and I joined IVBC in 1998; I don't know how many years he was before that. As I mentioned above, Tony has asked to step down as the RAGBRAI Chair, and he deserves a break after so many years of dedicated service. His title was RAGBRAI Committee Chairman, but he was much more than that to our IVBC Charter. Yes, he chaired the committee that plans and organizes IVBC's RAGBRAI Charter service, but also during each year's ride he was TPIC (**The** person in charge). I always marveled at his skill in loading the trucks, especially the Ryder. There are always special requests that pop up at the last minute. Riders with tandems or recumbents (always a problem to pack and haul). Getting the right amount (and kinds) of pop and sport drinks, ice, change, and lugging the money box around. Tony was always the first rider off each day, so he could get to the next town early (most of the time, the first rider in) to help the driver unload the truck and get organized. Around camp Tony was the go-to-guy; answer questions, provide assistance, and somehow come up with just about anything one needed; tools to work on you bike, chain lube, bobby pins, tent stakes, and of course duct tape. And then there is always coordinating the last day of each RAGBRAI - what a nightmare! First trying to get the word out to all the riders where in town they are to meet the buses and truck (and it **always** changes), unload the Ryder or not, showers or not, and coordinating with the incoming buses and truck. Then loading the bikes on the truck and somehow accounting for all the remaining riders (those that have abandoned the ride, have found other rides home, who's not in yet, etc. etc.) Through all of this hectic, caotic activity that is RAGBRAI, year in and year out Tony did an excellent job and each year came up with suggestions to improve things a little. Our charter is much improved because of Tony Etcher- we're going to miss him, his big smile, and his always positive attitude. We all owe Tony a big **Thank You** for a job well done!



“Imagine 7 Big Ideas by 2011” by: Terry Briggs

IVBC members Nancy and Bob Peterson, Charlie Smith and Terry Briggs recently attended a community meeting held at Iowa Valley. The meeting was sponsored by the Martha Ellen Tye Foundation and focused on sustainable community development for Marshalltown –how to make it a more vibrant and attractive community in which to live. Plans to this end have been developed in Austin, Minnesota and Dubuque, Iowa and these were discussed in detail.

A new initiative for Marshalltown was developed at the meeting entitled “Imagine 7 Big Ideas by 2011”. Its’ mission is to engage community members in a collaborative, community-wide visioning process to develop 7 big ideas that will be implemented by 2011. This is to be a community-wide effort focusing on community visioning in order to make Marshalltown and Marshall County a better place to live, work and play.

At the IVBC annual meeting in November, members proposed the following ideas which will be submitted to the Imagine steering committee:

- Make Marshalltown a “Bicycle Friendly Community”. This should include, but not be limited to, completing the recreational trail to Melbourne, completing and expanding bicycle routes in Marshalltown, placing more bicycle racks around town and developing showers and additional rest-rooms on the recreational trail.
- Develop and upgrade Marshalltown’s park system – emphasizing Riverside Park cleanup and development.
- Establish a community “Wellness Committee” to coordinate and expand wellness programs and activities for citizens of all ages.
- Establish Marshalltown as a “quiet zone for railroad crossings”.
- Clean up unused and misused properties in Marshalltown – especially on entry ways into the city.
- Develop additional Spanish language classes at free or reduced costs for our non- Spanish speaking citizens.

These proposals will be further discussed at our December meeting and additional ideas – or modifications to the above – are welcome.

Bike Path Tree Planting Project

The Iowa Valley Leadership Class of 2006 developed a project this year to plant shade trees along the Marshalltown Bike Path (see www.marshallowntrees.com). On two different weekends they supervised the planting of 260 trees. IVBC donated \$250 toward this project, which purchased three trees in our name. Our trees are tagged and located on the path near the Mega 10 park, West of the community Y. On Sunday, October 15, we had four club members help plant the trees along with 136 other volunteers from other organizations in the community. They were Ken Lyons, Charlie Smith, John Eich, and Deter Butzloff. Deter is developing quite a reputation for working on the bike path with a shovel. This time he even had some help. There are probably other club members that were involved that I have missed but thanks for a job well done anyway.

The next newsletter will be published mid-January. Included in it will be membership and RAGBRAI applications. Also, be sure and start tallying your 2006 mileage; we’ll be collecting that data in January for our mileage awards program in February. db

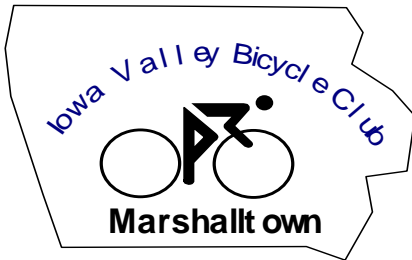


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IVBC Nov 06 - Apr 07 Calendar			
Date	Time	Event	Place
Nov 22	7:00 p.m.	Chris Horner—Megan Elliott Program Share their experiences as Profession Bicycle Racers	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa
Dec 9	5:00 p.m.	11th Annual IVBC Tour de Lights - hot chocolate - chili - door prizes	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa
Dec 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Monthly Club Meeting Program: Marshalltown Convention & Visitor's Bureau	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa
Jan 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular Monthly Club Meeting Program: Representative Mark Smith	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa
Feb 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Monthly Club Meeting Program: CPR Recertification	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa
Mar 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Monthly Club Meeting Program: Marty Wymore from Region 6 Planning Commission	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa
Apr 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Monthly Club Meeting Program: Chuck Offenburger	Fisher Community Ctr Marshalltown, Iowa