



# THE SPROCKET

March – April 2019

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## S.I.W. President's Message

2019 marks my 20<sup>th</sup> year riding with the Southern Indiana Wheelmen. When Pete Schuler invited me over to Indiana to ride, I didn't realize that I was about to be introduced to some of the best cycling and people in America. Thanks to SIW, I have made lifelong friends, and I will forever be indebted. On rides we have discussed and solved some of the world's problems, and seen amazing things along the way. Life is good on a bicycle. I hope this continues for generations to come in our Southern Indiana Communities.

I want to "Thank" my fellow club members for allowing me the privilege of serving as club President. I pledge to do everything in my power to support and promote cycling in Southern Indiana and beyond. This is a phenomenal club with really special members. We also have some outstanding bicycle riders!

My first concern is club membership. We need to increase SIW's membership. This includes recruiting and encouraging younger riders to become members. We can't deny the "graying" of our club. (Yes, this is hard for me to say, as I am part of this). We need new energy and ideas for the long-term future of our club. We currently have 183 riders who logged miles in 2018. This is down 17 riders from 2017. We need active and involved members. At our January meeting, we formed a Membership Committee that Ed Goatee agreed to chair. They met last month and began brainstorming ideas. Some were mentioned at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and many ideas sound promising. The committee is meeting again on March 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating on this committee please contact Ed Goatee or me.

Congratulations to Barb Beach!! She is the 5<sup>th</sup> rider in Southern Indiana Wheelmen history to reach the 100,000-mile mark of club rides. She is the first female rider to achieve this terrific milestone. With her husband, Paul they become the first 100,000 couple.

Anyone who may be interested in riding RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) in 2019, please contact me. This year's ride is July 21-27<sup>th</sup> with a southern Iowa Route of approximately 430 miles. There is an April 1<sup>st</sup> registration deadline. We usually have between 8-20 club members participating. Every bike rider needs to ride RAGBRAI at least once.

As we Spring forward this weekend with daylight savings time, our evening rides will begin in full swing. Please be "safe" and follow the rules of the road. I hope everyone will consider riding my favorite club ride of the year - Paul and Barb Beach's Easter Egg Ride. (Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>- see April ride schedule for times and distances).

I want to thank my fellow officers for helping me to envision 2019 as a wonderful bicycling year in Southern Indiana! Please feel free to email me



**Mark Your  
Calendar!**

**Next Club Meeting  
Monday, March 4, 2019  
Clarksville Library**

**We will begin promptly at 6 pm.**

**Come join us & support your club.**

If you see any of the riders listed below, please wish them a

# Happy Birthday!!



March		April	
Mike Duczeminski	<u>03/02</u>	Kaitlyn Hutton	04/07
Liam Paro	<u>03/03</u>	Eric Madison	04/07
John Neichter	<u>03/07</u>	Teri Blackman	04/13
Paul Beach	<u>03/08</u>	Scott Malony	04/14
Chris Livers	<u>03/14</u>	Katie Burkhart	04/16
Betty House	<u>03/21</u>	Don Gettelfinger	04/18
David Richard	<u>03/21</u>	Chad Gillenwater	04/24
Dick Thorn	<u>03/22</u>	Ben Blackman	04/26
Ed Hatfield	<u>03/23</u>	Brenda Hutton	04/28
Jessica Korte	<u>03/23</u>		
Abilene Lynch	<u>03/24</u>		
Mike Reilly	<u>03/25</u>		
Randy Hein	<u>03/26</u>		
Bob Quinn	<u>03/28</u>		

If you are a bicyclist in the Southern Indiana/Louisville area and would like to ride with a great group of people with similar interests, come check us out! Just pick up a Southern Indiana Wheelmen / Slowspokes ride schedule from the Clarksville Schwinn bicycle shop. If you have any questions, please contact one of the club officers or visit our web site at [www.siwheelmen.org](http://www.siwheelmen.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

See Ride Schedules <http://siwheelmen.org/rides.htm> for additional details

- March 10 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - SPRING FORWARD!**
- March 30 **Soup and Bread Ride – Alison Ewart – 502-542-1026**
- April 13 **Redbud Ride <http://www.redbudride.com/register.html>  
Rates go up March 16.**
- April 20 **Dogwood Pedal, Orleans, Indiana - Tim Meyer 502-609-9425  
<http://www.dogwoodpedal.com/>**
- April 28 **Tour de Lou - <https://discover.kdf.org/tour-de-lou/>  
Need ride captain**

**Additional information on bicycling in Indiana can be found by contacting:**

**Bicycle Indiana • [info@bicycleindiana.org](mailto:info@bicycleindiana.org) • [www.bicycleindiana.org](http://www.bicycleindiana.org)**

**Southern Indiana Wheelmen web pages • <http://siwheelmen.org/>**

# PALM 2018

By: Jessica Madison

The wind rushes into your face as you speed down, what you hope, is the last hill before camp; as you push the last stretch before home you think of lying in your tent after a good day's work out. For the past two years my father and I have embarked on the week-long bike trip known as PALM. We choose PALM for many reasons including its cheap pricing, many levels of difficulty, and its' many amenities. PALM (Pedal Across Lower Michigan) is a relatively small ride with only 800-900 people. Nights are spent at the local high school providing showers, Wi-Fi, and electricity. There is no drugs or alcohol allowed on school property making it family friendly but if that's your thing don't worry about; there is a shuttle almost every night to take you into town.

PALM is such a good ride because it so cheap, making it much easier to fit on a budget. With the early bird discount, it is \$35 for children and \$65 for adults to register, this includes bagging carrying, SAG support, school amenities, a t-shirt, and a welcoming gift. For \$50 they will bus you and all of your stuff across the state in either direction. And the best deal of all, for \$100 breakfasts and dinners, often all-you-can-eat, are provided allowing you to sit back and relax for the remainder of your night. For my Dad and I to go with food and a bus trip our total cost is **\$500**, a fraction of the cost of most other rides especially considering the many amenities provided for both of us.

Another great reason to make this year, your year to go to PALM is the end point of the route is the furthest south yet. The rout ends in Luna Pier MI only have a half hour north of Toledo, OH. Compare to previous year this can and will drop your drive time significantly, by about a couple of hours.

As mentioned before PALM is a great ride because of its varying levels of difficulty. The average day is 42.5mi, not long considering you have all day to do it; the average optional + base mileage is 59.7mi providing for a more challenging route. You do not have to decide on your mileage until you quite literally, get to the fork in the road, allowing you to decide on a moment by moment basis. Many people who do this ride do not bike except for one week out of the year testifying to the ease of this ride but also guaranteeing you, you will not be the slowest in the bunch. For those of you with kids not only will they not be with people their age but also craft time is a thing.

PALM is a great option for this year's summer vacation. PALM provides everything for everyone and allows you to sit back and enjoy the sport we all enjoy. I implore you to sign up this year for PALM while it is so close to home. For the lowest price you will find anywhere else you too can enjoy a week of biking bliss. So go ahead, take the initiative and sign up at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/AnnArbor/PedalAcrossLowerMichiganPALM?ordering>

For more information:

<http://www.palmbiketour.org/palm-2019/>