



THE SPROCKET

May - June 2019

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S.I.W. President's Message

The Presidents Message: " Le Tour De Greenway"

On Saturday, May 11th from 8 a.m. to noon the celebration of the "official" opening of the Greenway will take place. I am pleased to announce that SIW will take part in the celebration. This first-ever event is meant to celebrate the full connection of the Greenway, a 7.5-mile multi-use path through the three communities (New Albany, Clarksville and Jeffersonville). With the recent opening of a walking bridge across Silver Creek, recreational users can now ride the Greenway from end to end.

Le Tour de Greenway is free and open to all ages. Families and individuals are invited to register online or on the morning of the event. Participants will receive a "passport" with information about the Greenway and locations of fun stops along the way. Each community will have three to four stops with fun family activities such as inflatables, music, food, games, and more!

For our part, SIW is donating 40 helmets to children 12 and under who need one. The helmets will be given away on a "first come basis" to any child who does not have a helmet. Clarksville Schwinn is operating 3 air stations, one in each community. We will need volunteers to help with the helmet give away and passing out membership information.

This will be an excellent opportunity for the club to show what we are about and to participate in a positive community event. We will participate in the ride as ambassadors on the 7.5-mile course. The club needs your help. If you can volunteer for a 1-hour block and ride for the remaining time. Times will be at 8 a.m. (We would like at 2 members at each station in New Albany, Clarksville and Jeffersonville air station), 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m... After passing out literature please ride as an ambassador. Members will receive a 30-mile credit for volunteering and riding. This event is an opportunity to show Southern Indiana what a strong bicycle club and cycling community we have. Please contact me if you want to volunteer.

The Membership Drive is doing well. I have counted 24 new or renewed members since our January meeting. Please continue to encourage your family and friend to ride with us and join our club.

Congratulations to the Silver Creek High School Boys' Basketball Team and Assistant Coach Mark Rieger on winning the 3A State Basketball Championship! Mark is a longtime member of SIW and the former VP of Touring.

Great news.....last week Ed Fichtner made his triumphant return. It was great seeing you on Tuesdays ride after months of recovery.

Keep Riding and Everyone Be Safe,

Joe G.



**Mark Your
Calendar!**

**Next Club Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2019
Clarksville Library**

We will begin promptly at 5:45 PM.

Come join us & support your club.

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

Happy Birthday!!



May		June	
Donna Richard	<u>05/01</u>	Ed Fichtner	<u>06/08</u>
Mary Ann Galbraith	<u>05/06</u>	Nathaniel Mccomb	<u>06/08</u>
Bridget Zipp	<u>05/07</u>	Joey Naville	<u>06/09</u>
Stacy Livers	<u>05/08</u>	Ron McKim	<u>06/17</u>
Stacy Madison	<u>05/08</u>	John Hamilton	<u>06/18</u>
Ava Paro	<u>05/08</u>	Mike Jacobi	<u>06/25</u>
Bryan Madison	<u>05/09</u>	Barry Peters	<u>06/25</u>
Ann Bishop	<u>05/14</u>	Nathan Domagalski	<u>06/26</u>
Sandra Jacobi	<u>05/14</u>	Jim Gladin	<u>06/28</u>
Edward Gootee	<u>05/16</u>		
Malvery McKim	<u>05/17</u>		
Greg Rupp	<u>05/18</u>		
George Wilding	<u>05/20</u>		
Randy House	<u>05/21</u>		
Kim Decker	<u>05/24</u>		
Marla Huhnerkoch	<u>05/25</u>		
Michelle Hamilton	<u>05/26</u>		
Roben Rosenberger	<u>05/26</u>		
John Bell	<u>05/29</u>		
Tony Duncan	<u>05/29</u>		
Brenda Gutmann	<u>05/30</u>		

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- May 5** Patoka Lake Ride, 8331 WSR 56 French Lick, IN /Lunch/Indoor Cart Racing
Contact Paul Beach, 502-558-1676, beachbike42@gmail.com
Bike 10AM - Race 2PM
- May 6** Club Meeting, **Clarkesville Library, 1312 Eastern Boulevard, Clarkesville**
- May 11** Le Tour De Greenway <https://letourdegreenway.com> – Joe Gutmann
502-296-1009
- May 18** 3 Steeples Ride, St. Mary of the Knobs – Roben Rosenberger 502-548-3145
<https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=61443852>
- May 24-26** Horsey Hundred, Brian Christoff 502-553-1313
<http://www.horseyhundred.com>
- May 27** Subway Fresh Fit Hike, Bike, and Paddle
<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/city-events/subway-fresh-fit-hike-bike-paddle>
- June 22-28** Pedal Across Lower Michigan
<http://www.palmbiketour.org/palm-2019>
- Eric Madison 920-471-3640

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

Bicycle Indiana • info@bicycleindiana.org • www.bicycleindiana.org

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

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.

The Great Equalizer: Electric Not Automatic

Written By: Jason and Jessica Korte
Edited By: Lily Korte

I recently purchased an ebike for my wife as an anniversary present. This was something that we had been talking about for a while. We were looking for a way to enjoy riding our single bikes together because this has been an issue for us in the past. We both thought the ebike would be the solution. The ebike has opened up rides for Jess that she would have never considered in the past. The experience has been a lot of fun and opened our eyes to the advantages and disadvantages of an ebike.

Our experiences have given us a good idea how the ebike shines and how it falls short, the Pros and Cons of an ebike.

Pro: Efficiency and Effectiveness

First thing we did was test the ebike on a casual easy ride. The ride was very relaxed and at a conversation pace; however, it was my conversation pace, which usually isn't hers. The second test was higher paced. The ride was 35 miles at 20mph, something that, without the ebike, would have been out of her comfort zone. The last thing to test was climbing. The best way? Clingmans Dome, the highest point in Tennessee. Suggesting this climb in the past, would have caused her to laugh in my face, but on the ebike she could climb it. On all of these rides Jess got the same exercise and exhaustion as if she was on her regular bike. The difference being that she was able to ride in places she regularly wouldn't and at speeds she can't. The ebike gives her the flexibility to ride faster and climb higher with some relaxation, but still get the exercise. The ebike allows the rider to be even more social, you can ride with anyone, slow medium or fast.

Con: Limitations

The ebike isn't for everyone! We have noticed some things that make this ebike not ideal for all riders. The ebike that I purchased for Jess is very heavy, weighing in at 44lbs. This weight could be problematic when lifting it onto a bike rack or into a car; however, there are lighter ebikes available. Another downside to the ebike is how it stops assisting or giving power at certain speeds, depending on the class. Jess has a class 3 ebike, which cuts out at 28mph. We have found that fast riders wouldn't really get much use out of an ebike as far as helping them to go faster. On some faster rides Jess found it hard to keep up. When we sped up to the 28mph mark she was stuck pushing a 44-pound bike with no extra power. So, if you can ride in the high 20s you will find that it cuts off and you will be stuck grinding a big gear all the time. Cadence is also a big thing with ebikes, the one I got Jess fits her style well. The bike is happy around 80- 85 rpm, and so is Jess. Other ebikes have different preferred cadences. There 3 power settings on Jess's bike. The first setting, Eco, gives her nice assistance. The second setting, Normal, helps a lot if needed. The last one, Power, is kind of a funny amount of power. Jess likes to stay in the Eco setting as this one gives her enough power to stay with me in most cases. When she attended the Thursday night ride, she did have to move up to the Normal setting to keep up when we got moving in our peline. We think that the Power mode is the problem one, it could make for a lazy shifter. As long as you can pedal you don't really feel the need to shift at that point. Finally, the ebike is limited battery wise. Within one battery charge, Jess has been able to ride 3 rides totaling 70 miles. She stayed in Eco mode for the majority of these rides, keeping battery usage at a minimum. Nevertheless, because the bike uses more battery life in higher power settings, the time you can ride on the ebike is limited based on how you choose to ride it. Even though the first and second levels are the best suited for group riding, level 3 can be a lot of fun when riding by yourself, but remember that it does run on a battery and using the Power mode will eat it up.

The ebike is in no way a cheat. I have seen Jess totally exhausted. I have seen her ride in places she would never have attempted. I have seen her wanting to ride more than ever. The ebike is more like a gateway drug to cycling than a cheat. If you were in a race, then YES it would be a cheat, but for recreation and commuting NO. The thing to remember is you have to pedal. The bike does not help you unless you pedal. You might be able get to your destination faster or climb higher, but you have to pedal the whole way!

We have enjoyed our rides so far, learning how to get the best ride for us out of the bike. We have taken it out for relaxing recovery rides and for some more challenging rides. It has been great for both of us. The main benefit for us is allowing ride choice to not be determined by speed and elevation. The failings we have found so far are other people's perception of the ebike and the need for it. I personally don't have need for one, but my wife loves hers! Keep an open mind about ebikes, they can be great fun for some and not right for others, but it is all about getting out there and riding a bike.

The purpose of the Club is to promote, advance, improve, and enjoy the sport of bicycling.

SIW Constitution Article II - Purpose