



THE SPROCKET

January - February 2020

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S.I.W. President's Message

Hi SIW Members,

The 2019 riding season was a huge success! As a club we rode 280, 454 miles for the year. This was an 11.4% increase over 2018 (252,028). Some of this increase can be attributed to the late summer drought with few "rain outs", however I think the biggest variable in this increase is new members and a healthy ride schedule. We began the year with a goal of increasing membership. We added approximately 2 dozen new members as a result of this initiative. Congratulations to everyone who reached a personal goal. We had 33-1,000 mile riders, 27-2,000 mile riders, 9-3,000 mile riders, 11-4,000 mile riders, 3-5,000 mile riders, 1-6,000 mile rider, 4-7,000 mile riders and 2- 8,000 mile riders.

Congratulations to **Barb Beach** who became the first female rider to reach the 100,000 mile goal! This is an amazing accomplishment when you break down the numbers! 25 years of 4,000 miles or 30 years averaging 3,333. It is a lot of riding. Congratulations to our mileage champions, **Jessica Christoff** (Female under 55-4,379 miles), **Maggie Ride** (Female over 55-7,465 miles), **Randy Hein** (Male under 55-8,271 miles) and **Don Gettlefinger** (Male over 55-8,271 miles). Congratulations to **John Neichter** who rode the most miles during the year at 8,503.

Congratulations to our Most Improved Riders: **Kristie Madison** and **Chad Gillenwater**.

Congratulations to **Maggie Ridge** and **Barbara Thorn** who reached their first Around the World.

Thank you, **Susie Peters** (and all of her helpers! If I attempt to name everyone, I know that I will miss some of you) for an incredible banquet! It was really nice; the decorations were spectacular and I heard nothing but praises for the event. Thank you, **Paul Beach** for all of the time, energy and effort you put into getting our awards made. It wouldn't be such a nice event without your work. You do such an outstanding job!

2020 will mark my 3rd decade as a club member and I am excited to begin it at Tom and Clare Burkhardt's House on January 1st for the **Polar Bear Ride**. I hope to see you there. The rides begin at 10 a.m. with varying distances, food and friendship to follow at noon. Please bring a dish. See the SIW website for additional information and directions.

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Next Club Meeting:

Monday, January 16, 2020
Clarksville Library

We will begin promptly at 5:45 PM.

Come join us & support your club.

Happy
Birthday!



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EVERY YEAR ITS THE SAME THING, "C'MON TERRY
PUT ON A BIRTHDAY HAT, IT'LL BE FUN, WE'LL HELP
YOU TAKE IT OFF LATER" BUT NO ONE EVER DOES

Nancy Lovett	<u>01/01</u>	David Ezzell	<u>02/01</u>
Marty Jones	<u>01/02</u>	Ron Galbraith	<u>02/01</u>
Lily Korte	<u>01/02</u>	Tony Young	<u>02/05</u>
Dick Keith	<u>01/12</u>	Paul Vice	<u>02/08</u>
Robin Meredith	<u>01/12</u>	Tony Barranco	<u>02/12</u>
Karen Summers	<u>01/12</u>	Bill Priddy	<u>02/18</u>
Bryan Huhnerkoch	<u>01/16</u>	Becky Best	<u>02/27</u>
Michael Hottois	<u>01/21</u>		
Barbara Thorn	<u>01/21</u>		
Sharon Thomas	<u>01/22</u>		
Peggy Bannon	<u>01/28</u>		
Tony Wilson	<u>01/29</u>		

Upcoming Events

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

Date	Title	Location	RC
January 13, 5:45 PM	Club Meeting	Clarksville Library 1312 Eastern Boulevard, Clarksville, IN	
January 18, 12:15 PM	Special Events Lunch & Planning Meeting	1709 Wildwood Dr, Henryville RSVP: jeannegy@aol.com or 812-252-9371 Lunch @ 12:15 followed by meeting. Please bring a side dish or dessert.	Jeanne Garrison-Young

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.

A Farewell Letter

12/6/2019

OUR GOOD FRIENDS @SIW

Our hearts ache with remembrance of time spent on the beautiful roads of Southern Indiana with wonderful friends as we prepare to move to the Lexington, KY area.

I've accepted a position as a minister in Paris, KY at the High Street Church of Christ. Yes, we are moving again to the area of Mary's youth, the beautiful, big sky, bluegrass area of Kentucky.

Our club is full of caring and encouraging individuals whom we've grown to love and appreciate. We've learned so much about riding, living and giving from so many of you who give selflessly to SIW and its members.

Thank you all for the friendship and sharing the road with us these past years. We hope to see you on the trails often!

Bob & Mary Quinn

Good news/Sad news: Congratulations to **Bob Quinn** for following his passion and will become a pastor near Lexington, Kentucky. The sad news is that he and **Mary** will be moving to the Lexington Area. Your congregation will be lucky to have you! We wish you both the best and we will miss you. We hope you remain members and ride with the club when you can.

We have many "special rides" in the planning for 2020. Please try to attend a planning meeting at Jeanne Garrison Young's house on Saturday, January 18th at 12:15. Please see the January schedule for additional information. Barbara Thorn is captaining a Wisconsin Ride (Door County Peninsula Ride (Sturgeon Bay and Sister's Bay, Wisconsin). She advised me that 30 club members are planning on going. It sounds like a well-organized and fun ride. The ride is June 22nd-26th. Barbara has advised me that there is for 6-8 people (3-4 rooms with double occupancy). Once these rooms go, it is full. Please contact Barbara Thorn at lodochien@gmail.com for additional information.

I am considering putting the New York City 5 Borough Ride on the schedule. The ride is May 3rd (the Sunday after Derby). Registration opens in early January and you must register to participate. It fills up quickly and there is no day of ride registration. There are approximately 25,000 riders and it is a well-organized event by the New York City Bicycle Club. I did this ride 4 years ago. You begin the ride next to World Trade One and the 9/11 Memorial ride uptown and through Central Park, Harlem, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Across the Verrazano Bridge to Staten Island. It is a 40 mile ride and you return to Manhattan by the Staten Island Ferry past the Statute of Liberty. Please let me know if you have any interest in this event. I will gage the club interest before making plans. There are other out of town rides being considered for 2020, watch the google group and website for additional information. Please try to attend the meeting on January 18th.

For our club members going to Florida to ride over the next few weeks. Debbie Shelton has been advised the Florida Freewheelers Bicycle Club will provide free access to GPS Maps. Please contact Debbie at debbie.shelton@gmail.com if you have some additional questions. Have a safe trip.

Happy New Year and I wish Everyone a Safe and Healthy Riding Year!

Sincerely,

Joe G.

Pedal Power at Beargrass Christian Church

by Carrol Sutton

Pedal Power is a grass roots organization, sponsored by Beargrass Christian Church in St Matthews, that provides a mode of transportation to those refugees, homeless, and anyone less fortunate and in need of assistance with bicycle transportation.

Our mission is to repair as many bicycles that are given or donated to us, so that we might return them free of charge to those individuals or groups who need them most.

Pedal Power wants all broken-down and worn out old bicycles. You know, the ones gathering dust in your garage or jammed into the dark corners of your basement and attic. Our Pedal Power team will do whatever it takes to bring them back to life and then deliver the bikes to grateful Kentucky refugee families and to others with limited resources. Since 2013 we've distributed almost 5000 bicycles.

Greasy chains and frames? No problem, we'll clean them.

Flat tires and tubes? No problem, we'll replace them.

Broken spokes, brakes, pedals and gears? No problem, we'll repair them.

Bring your old Schwinn, Huffy, Trek and all others to the Pedal Power bicycle doctors for a complete physical and a new home. Call the office of Beargrass Christian Church in St. Matthews at 896-1161 for more information regarding drop off, or to arrange for a pick-up.

Herman Rave of Jeffersonville

by Carson Torpey

I'm sure there are few cyclists who have heard of Herman Rave. Mr. Rave lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He was though, known by fellow cyclists of the 1880's and 1890's. He was an enthusiastic wheelman who delights in long rides into the wild and unexplored regions of Indiana. He was one of the pioneer cyclists of the Louisville area.

In 1889, he switched from the high wheel bike to the new hard tired safety. This bike has hard tires like a high wheel has and a saddle similar to the high wheel as well. One mounts the bike from a step by the rear axle just like on a high wheel. The bike though was of the new "safety" design like we ride today. These bikes were heavy, 50 to 75 pounds. To make up for this, many had some sort of suspension on either the front or rear wheel.

Herman's new bike was a Victor A with a spring on the front fork. It was one of the first safeties in the city. From the time he bought the bike until 1896, he rode over 25,000 miles and was satisfied with his wheel.

In 1896, he finally traded in the Victor for a pneumatic tired bicycle. In September of this year, he and a friend began a journey through Indiana. Heading west, they travelled to Corydon, Mt. Vernon and to New Harmony. Then they turned north following the state line with Illinois all the way to Chicago. On the homeward journey they went through La Fayette and Indianapolis and then to Jeffersonville. They took cameras to record their trip. They had a budget of \$10 for the entire trip.

Mr. Rave was the local consul (representative) of the League of American Wheelmen for Jeffersonville.



"I started at 3:00 p. m. ,ran seven miles on the Charlestown Pike, two miles on an abominable country road reached the place , stayed for an hour and a half, lost my bearings and travelled seven miles out of the way over bad track, finally regained a pike and reached Utica, Indiana at 7. Leaving again at 7:15 p. m. and arriving at Jeffersonville seven miles distant in fifty-five minutes travelling by lamplight and making altogether thirty-one miles in three and one-fourth hours and feeling fresh enough to walk about town until midnight. Can you do that with a horse and buggy?"

Besides being noted as a cyclist, Herman was a writer and speaker. His writings appeared frequently in the Courier-Journal. He was called the historian of Clark County. In 1899 he was elected sheriff of Clark County and in 1920's was a justice of the peace. While sheriff, he lived at the jailhouse on Meigs Ave.

Herman Rave was born in Germany in 1857. His family came to America in 1867. He became a U.S. citizen in 1884. He died December 13, 1929 and is buried in the Walnut Ridge cemetery.

Read about other cyclists in my book *The Golden Age of Wheeling* by T. Carson Torpey.

Follow this link for banquet photos:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=19IMCH-yanwQIUX4I9FbRZMCJnv9zov6M>