



THE SPROCKET

March – April 2020

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S.I.W. President's Message

Hi SIW Members,

"Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter

Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, here comes the sun

And I say it's all right"

Here Comes the Sun, The Beatles

The 2020 riding season is in full swing in 6 days with daylight savings time.

Starting with the week of March 9th there will be evening rides almost every night until November 1st (end of daylight savings time). Let's do everything possible to make the 2020 season a safe and accident free year. Some areas where we need to be proactive.

- ✓ **Be visible.** Use lots of lights. Wear bright and wild clothing to get drivers attention.
- ✓ **Don't take chances.** If you ask yourself the question, "can I make it" or "Is it safe to ride with the weather?" ... the answer should be, "no". Please do not take unnecessary chances.
- ✓ **Follow all traffic laws.** You can't be in the right, if you are not following the rules of the road.
- ✓ **Check and maintain your bike.** A couple of years ago in an early season ride, I am pumping up my tire and saw numerous cracks in the tire. The result of winter cold. Riding with questionable equipment can lead to bad results.
- ✓ **Ride with others.** We are safer as a group. You are more likely to be seen by drivers, rather than solo.
- ✓ **Stay within a safe speed for you.** As a club, we have a wide range of riding abilities. Stay at a speed you are comfortable at. It may be exhilarating going down a hill at 40 miles an hour. It can equally be fun at 25. Be sure you are comfortable at the speed you choose.
- ✓ **Communicate.** "on your left", "car up" and "car back" should be a regular part of your biking vocabulary. Letting your riding friends know what you are doing is essential to a safe riding season. Please do not assume that they know you are turning.
- ✓ **Ride Right.** This is the RAGBRAI motto. Ride to the right side of the roadway. We have many riders who like to ride in the center. This endangers every rider. Many years ago, on another club's ride, I witnessed a car going a high rate of speed avoid riders in the middle of the road. The driver almost lost control endangering the riders in the back. I was one of those riders. This is especially true when riding up a blind hill.
- ✓ **Help newer riders.** We were all new riders at one time. Help new riders by setting a good example for them.

There are probably 100 other suggestions that could be made, the goal is to have a safe and health 2020 riding year.



**Mark Your
Calendar!**

**Next Club Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2020
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	03/02	Don Forsee	04/02
John Neichter	03/07	Eric Madison	04/07
Paul Beach	03/08	Ben McMillen	04/11
Eric Eickholtz	03/08	Teri Blackman	04/13
Mark Stoltz	03/08	Eric Sieg	04/13
James Whaley Jr	03/08	Scott Malony	04/14
Chris Livers	03/14	Ronald Dutton	04/15
B. Carl Ray	03/15	Katie Burkhart	04/16
Betty House	03/21	Don Gettelfinger	04/18
David Richard	03/21	Chad Gillenwater	04/24
Dick Thorn	03/22	Ben Blackman	04/26
Ed Hatfield	03/23	Scott Baerenklau	04/27
Jessica Korte	03/23		
Mike Reilly	03/25		

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 8	<u>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - SPRING FORWARD!</u>
April 20	Dogwood Pedal - Orleans, IN - Tim Meyer - 502-609-9425 http://www.dogwoodpedal.com/
April 26	Tour de Lou - https://discover.kdf.org/tour-de-lou/
May 16	3 Steeples Ride – Floyds Knobs, IN - Roben Rosenberger https://www.active.com/floyds-knobs-in/cycling/races/st-marys-of-the-knobs-3-steeples-5-16-20-2020

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/>

S.I.W. President's Message (cont.)

Harvest Homecoming Update:

The 2020 Harvest Homecoming Ride will be Saturday, October 3rd in Lanesville, IN. The committee met last week to get the ball rolling on the event. This is our club's signature ride and in order to continue our decades of success, we need everyone to help and volunteer. Please see me, Bob Peters or Susie Peters (ride directors) or Paul Beach (volunteer coordinator) to commit for this year's event.

Summer Rides:

There are numerous summer rides in the planning:

RAGBRAI is the week of July 19-25 with registration required by April 1st. Please email or text me, if you have any interest or questions.

Wisconsin Ride: Contact Barbara Thorn for additional information

Tour of Minnesota: We have 3 riders committed and need 2 more to make it a club ride. June 19-26.

Richard Jones has posted on the google group a desire to have a ride from Lake Erie to Cincinnati. Contact Richard, if you have any questions.

Please contact Jeanne Garrison Young (Slowspokes Coordinator) or John Neichter (VP of Touring), if you want to put on an out of town ride. Please remember to look at the bylaws for the qualifications to count this as a club ride.

2020 begins my 21st year riding with SIW. I have made lifelong friends "thanks" to the club. We have a really great club and I am hopefully that this year will be one of the best. Here comes the sun!!! Thanks,

Joe G.

The Sunshine State



On Jan. 30, a bunch of us SIWers left the cold & dreary wintry Kentuckiana for sunny & warm Kissimmee, FL. Hauling our bikes & apparel down, our 1st. Bike stop was Gainesville, FL., home of famous Hawthorne St. Trail, a 32 mi. Rail Trail passing thru Preserve & Wildlife management area. This was Fri. Jan. 31, a warm & sunny day to bike ride. Then on to our condos in Kissimmee where we stayed mostly together at Caribe Cove, a new condo for us. Most of SIW group

stayed at this condo, excepting a couple of folks. This location was actually closer to our daily bike start destinations. All seemed contented w/this arrangement, including space, hot tub & heated pool. Nightly get together would find us playing Dominos & Rummy cube.



The bike rides kicked off Feb.1, as we pedaled over familiar & favorite routes from previous years, including Rails to trails & some rural roads, flat & rolling. We were treated to lots of lovely lakes (alligators!) , alligator sightings as well as turtles, otters, peacocks. Some of our favorite places to ride were Ice cream scoops in Winter Garden, Catfish place (great seafood) in Apopka, & Sweet Tomatos (a buffet, soup, salad & breads) restaurant. Did I mention we rode to eat, or eat to ride!

Gratitude Appreciation to our great arrangers & leaders, Jan, Paul V., & Debbie whom made it a joyous & exhilarating adventure for all.

Carol Sutton