



THE SPROCKET

May - June 2020

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President's Message:

Hi SIW Members,

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy! Prior to writing this message, I was reviewing the March 3rd President's Message with the excitement of daylight savings time and evening rides through October. Oh, how everything is changed!

Almost daily, I get a text, email or phone call asking the question, "when will we resume club rides?". My response is, "As soon as the doctors say it is safe to resume group activities and when it is socially responsible". I want our club rides to resume as soon as possible! Plain and simple. My selfishness in wanting to have my Sunday Morning Ride is not more important than the health and welfare of my fellow club members and their families. That said, we should not be willing as a club to ignore the science of this deadly virus and continue with our ride schedule, as though it doesn't exist. As of publication, 1 million Americans have contracted the disease and 56,000 people have died as a result. This is serious stuff. The newest concern is over the 2nd wave of infections.

I have been in constant contact with our club doctor, Tony Duncan. Dr. TD (as I call him) is extremely knowledgeable about this disease. He usually ends our conversations by advising me to give upset club members his phone number so he can explain the dangers and realities of this disease. I know we are restless to ride as a group again. I get it! I want this disease to go away like everyone else.

Last week, I was riding with a couple of other SIW Riders when we encountered an angry man on Stricker Road. His words, "you aren't supposed to be out here, there is a stay at home order"! He wasn't listening to, "it is okay to ride a bike". We sarcastically joked, " he may do the Easy Rider on us". (if you don't know what that means, please watch the end of the classic movie, Easy Rider). Please know there are citizens watching what we do. If you are out riding, please ride in small groups with correct social distancing. We don't want to end up on the front page of our local newspaper, like the golfers at a local country club.

My assurance to you, I will monitor and discuss this situation weekly with our officers, board and local health officials. We will resume our schedule as soon as it is responsible to do so.

Many of our summer rides are canceled. This includes RAGBRAI (my first time in 24 years I won't be spending the last week of July riding my bike across Iowa), Horsey Hundred, Tour of Minnesota, Bike Virginia (postponed), SIW Ride in Wisconsin, and BRAG (Bike Ride Across Georgia). Even the Tour de France has been postponed to August 29th.

(Continued on page 2)

(President's Message continued)

May Club Meeting: The library system is still closed. Our May Club meeting will be virtual and held via **Zoom**. It is free to join Zoom. It is easy to have a virtual meeting. Our school has our faculty meetings this way and I was nervous at first. It is pretty fool proof. Here is the link to download Zoom: <https://zoom.us/download>
For additional instructions: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>
Your Meeting Invitation:

Joe Gutmann is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Joe Gutmann's Zoom Meeting-Southern Indiana Wheelmen Meeting
Time: May 4, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87484917813?pwd=UTk2czrcrcjVjS3hQaHNBQlFPWnlYUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 8491 7813
Password: 040103

Our meeting can only last for 40 minutes (that is the maximum free time), please be on time and we will try to cover as much as possible.

This entire message has been a "negative nelly" to me. Let me try to end on a positive note. It has been nice seeing so many club members out riding. Bike riding is the best activity in the entire world! To me, the world is a better place when I am on my bike. Please stay safe and healthy.

Peace,
Joe G.

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>		

The Netherlands April 2019

By Ann Bishops

The 24 of us went to the Netherlands over Easter 2019, most of us knew each other or had a connection to SIW. We went on a Bike and Barge tour with VBT which we had decided was the best way to go. The barge was a really nice boat with an outdoor deck, lovely inside lounge and dining area, and small but efficient rooms downstairs with private baths. The food was outstanding and cooked by a first-class chef. Eventually, the crew became like family, taking care of any need we had.



In the morning there was breakfast, info for the ride and then we went out to our waiting bikes for a day of fun. The bikes were sturdy and felt safe. Most of us used the GPS routes that had been given out ahead of time which made it easy for us to find the way. The rest used the printed cue sheets ensuring we were prepared for

whatever may lie ahead. Our guides were with us some of the way, meeting us with snacks or for lunch. We rode on roads with bike lanes, trails, and, on one occasion, on a path through a farm. The round-a-bouts were tricky, especially with such a large group, but we all made it home safely. At the end of the day, we came back to our barge home to relax and have a gourmet supper. And with a little wine, any mishaps were quickly forgotten. What truly made the trip special were the sights we saw and the things we experienced. The flowers were gorgeous and smelled wonderful. We saw fields of all colors, with tulips and hyacinths that you could smell as you approached them. The Keukenhof Gardens were unbelievably beautiful, acres filled with every flower imaginable for a 2-month show for thousands of visitors. We also visited a dairy farm that made cheese and a few museums. We saw canal cruises, tilting skinny houses with steep stairs, the Anne Frank House, the Jewish district, a house church, quaint bars and restaurants, churches, lots of sheep and cows, and windmills. Of course, we saw the Red Light District, as well as some "coffee shops". And the food...Apple pie, herring, bitterballen, and stroopwafel. All yummy.



It was the trip of a lifetime, and I know everyone who went felt the same way. I would love to do it again and I'm sure we could fill another boat so if the opportunity arises you better get your reservation in right away!

The Love of Bike Riding

A reflection by Joan Gilley

In the last few days after our club has canceled rides, I have reminisced of our riding before SIW and subsequently mileage.

I began riding with others around '73 or '74 which was several years before we formed SIW and it was several years after that before we even began having ride miles credited with a mug. In those early days, I can remember Jean and Bill VanCader calling and asking to meet at 2:00, at the corner of Ekin and Silver, close to where they lived. Or, perhaps it was John and Judy Armes saying, "I'll meet you all at Schubert's Corner," or maybe near their home in Navilleton at 1 on a Sunday. It could have been a call from Barb Ehalt or myself saying, "Let's meet at the New Albany Plaza," and riding up the hill towards Hubers.

I became involved with Debbie Wilson as we were both teachers and needed to ride during the summer. On Saturdays, we would meet at the Holiday Inn in downtown NA and ride to a cafe in Corydon for breakfast, or to the Old Salem Jerrys on SR 60, heading back up the hill in Borden to Hubers before heading down St. Joe Hill. Once a week we would ride from the NA jail parking lot to the Polly Freeze and that wonderful downhill back into New Albany. In 1976, the Armes, myself, and Karen VanCader Goodwell rode from here to our first ever Amishland ride. Four years later, Bill and Jean VanCader, Cathy Bothwell, and I rode to Amish on different highways. We never worried about the mileage except in regard to how far we had to go each day to get there.

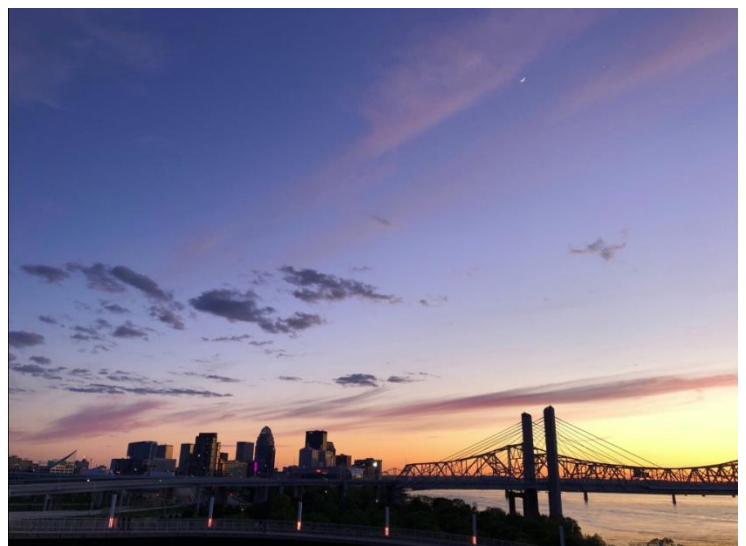
More recently Anne Bishop would call and say, "Let's meet at my house and ride through the countryside, no destination, and we'll go 'till we get tired." Even after the rides were canceled, we'll text and say we'll meet at the Visitors Center and ride the trail between NA and Jeff. We don't have miles to count, but we still ride.

I'm not sure I can do 50 or 60 miles a day like I used to or even enjoy it if I could. These past few weeks with no mileage to worry about or schedules to stick to have taken the pressure off. It has allowed me to reflect on the things I enjoy most about biking. It truly is the people and the places that make biking fun and interesting not the mileage. Now I'm truly just riding for the "love of it."

The Photo Booth



Alyssa Mazurek Paro



Nardis Weber