



THE SPROCKET

July-August 2022

SIW Contacts

SIW Web Page
www.siwheelmen.org

President
David Campbell
(502) 262-4711
campbelb5730@sbcglobal.net

Vice President
John Neichter
(502) 759-0425
rubyjetta@twc.com

Secretary
Peggy Bannon
pannbann@gmail.com

Treasurer
Roben Rosenberger
(502) 548-3145
rrosenberger1010@gmail.com
P O Box 924
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

Statistician
Bryan Huhnerkoch
(812) 704 2448
SIWStatsTracker@outlook.com

Slowspokes Coordinator
Eric Madison
(920) 471-3640
eric.madison@gmail.com

Webmaster
Joe Bolan
(765) 586-3619
bolanbiker@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor
Holly Campbell
(502) 939-0130
hcampbell6229@gmail.com

SIW's President's Message,

As I write, I am waiting for the roads to dry before slipping out for a solo ride. I seized the opportunity to replace my cleats that were badly worn. Today is one of those days that a commitment to help make some repairs at church plus attend a choir practice tonight results in being unable to participate in a SIW ride.

SIW groups have been out riding in several states and I hope to join one of more of these adventures next year. I have completed three of the five Kentucky Cycling Challenge with future events in Middleboro on August 6th and Owensboro on August 27th. Please check the SIW ride schedule for August for more information. By completing all five century rides I'll earn a jersey and bibs. I hope you have explored some new roads/rides this summer.

Hopefully, you have your calendars marked for the Harvest Homecoming Bicycle Tour on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Volunteering to help is simple via the link on the SIW homepage. If you have questions about volunteering, email Paul Beach at beachbike42@gmail.com.

Finally, our next SIW Club meeting is on Monday, July 11, at 6 p.m. in Meeting Room C at the Clarksville Public Library. I hope to see you at the meeting and/or at a July club ride.

David Campbell

If you need a quick response from me, please call or text me at 502-262-4771. For less urgent matters, my email address is campbelb5730@sbcglobal.net.



Next Club Meeting:

Monday, July 11, 2022

at 6 pm Clarksville Public Library

**Happy
Birthday**



| July | | August | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Micah Fritzinger | 07/01 | Andrea Neichter | 08/01 |
| Frances Campbell | 07/03 | Susie Hammond | 08/03 |
| Greg Montagano | 07/03 | Alison Ewart | 08/05 |
| Donnie Gladin | 07/10 | Mary Ann Reynolds | 08/05 |
| Susie Peters | 07/10 | Jim Shelton | 08/08 |
| Tim Meyer | 07/12 | Brian Christoff | 08/09 |
| Mary Quinn | 07/12 | Roger Bottorff | 08/16 |
| John Shelby | 07/19 | Meaghan Catlett | 08/17 |
| Bill Sligar | 07/24 | Richard Jones | 08/17 |
| Bill Kenealy | 07/25 | Bernie Campbell | 08/19 |
| Dennis Campbell | 07/28 | Roger Bauer | 08/20 |
| Nita Bernat | 07/29 | Barb Beach | 08/20 |
| | | Phil Samuel | 08/20 |
| | | Mark Rieger | 08/21 |
| | | Rachael Schultes | 08/27 |
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Pictures from the Nickel Plate Trail Ride

Peru, IN

The group was rained out for the 3rd day on the Monon Trail.





Picture
Contributions by
Paula Weller

Michigan Trail Ride

On this Michigan trip, although we were on trails throughout, we were able to see many interesting things. On the first full day of riding we all rode to Reed City and Carole, Barbara, Maggie and Mark rode to Big Rapids after passing through Paris and stopping to see the Eiffel Tower. Signs showed in Big Rapids that PALM (Pedal Across Lower Michigan) would be stopping there for the evening, and figured some would be riding the trails we would be on the next day. Incidentally, Terry, Ed Hatfield, Kathy Bothwell and I rode PALM in 1993 and Mary Ann had ridden it another year. While in Reed City we all rode to the campground where the miniature Mackinac Bridge was located. Sure enough, the next day, on our trip toward Lake City we encountered the PALM riders. One group rode to Clare to check out Cops and Donuts while the others, Janet, Robin, Mary Ann, Terry and I rode to Lake City for an early lunch. Mark planned his riding so he could ride ahead of us but be back to eat lunch with us. It took a lot of calculation at night for this plan to work.

On our last day out of Evart, we drove to Reed City and rode up hill to LeRoy and the faster four rode to Cadillac and its beautiful lake. The group that likes to stop for lunch stopped in LeRoy and had lunch at Mr Pibs (Pizza, Ice Cream, Burgers and Subs). Yes, Janet, asked for a Mr Pibs when she asked for our drink order. After that downhill ride back to Reed City, we drove to Edmore to be ready for our ride to Greenville, the first home of Meijers, whose name was on several of the trails. In Sidney, they asked about places to eat and a local suggested the Sidney Tavern, so we drove to what we thought was a small spot on the trail, but it had a huge lake with lots of beautiful homes around it.

The final day we all got up early to ride to check out the two story remodeled outhouse which before was the leaning outhouse. Our entertainment every night was dominoes. We noticed that Edmore's nice restaurants were all closed, but the very small communities we rode through had taverns and everyone was nice and the food was great. Terry Graf is my cousin and lives in Midland, Mi and his wife, Linda, rode with us the first two days. Terry supplies us with "Michigan Trails Magazine" which we have used for all the years we have been going to Michigan. Mark was really with us, but he rode to fast to get a picture.

Joan Gilley







June 18-25, 2022

Seven SIW members and a brother-in-law headed to Brainerd, Minnesota to join the start of the 2022 TOM (Tour of Minnesota). Over 200 folks from 26 states and Canada were about to peddle for six days visiting out of the way villages while learning about the heritage and culture of this part of the country. As we arrived at the fairgrounds, the clouds were a spectacle of lightning, movement, and color in the distance. An indication of what the week would bring.

Minnesota is known as the “Land of 10,000 Lakes” which added to the beauty of the area. The Rail Trails connected small towns and State Parks. We rode past waterlilies, wildflowers, and forest. At Itasca State Park we were able to put our feet in at the Mississippi Headwaters coming out of Itasca Lake. Paul Bunyan was allegedly born in Bemidji and the Visitor Center there had displays with his baby shoes, contact lenses and even toenail clippings. Other towns used the giant lumberjack in statues and huge cement footsteps across a park lawn. Lots of art filled parks and a totem pole at Bemidji State University was covered in wildlife found in the air, land, and water. A crafty beaver was carved in the bottom chewing off the pole and threatening all the stronger animals above. There was much to enjoy as we rode.

The first night our group choose to sleep inside an old army barrack at the fairgrounds due to the possibility of rain. One less night to put up and take down a tent. The next night we knew we had two bands of storms heading our way. Our group did not get much sleep as we dealt with a broken tent pole and tornado sirens. But we did see our first rainbow of the week. In Park Rapids we were treated to root beer floats followed by a private screening of Top Gun-Maverick. Locals were always curious about the tent city that popped up. We ended the week again battling the weather and spent the last night sleeping in a gym. The sun came out in time to ride as we passed by old brick barns with quilt squares. The weather might have been difficult at times, but it didn't take away from the wonderful riding.

The two guys who put this together were full of energy and enthusiasm. They do offer tent porter service and hotel options plus a bike mechanic traveled with us. The routes were mainly flat and change each year to different parts of the state. And a heads up, it fills up quick, this year in less than 48 hours.

Definitely a trip to do again.

Peggy Bannon





Ed "green socks" Gootee's Rendition of the Tour of Minnesota

I really am not sure how I missed the turn onto the trail that morning. But I am glad I did. The road was like a highway center line and wide aprons. Very few cars were encountered. After a mile I figured I was not where I should be. Looked at the map and thought that this was so pleasant I would continue until it crossed the Heartland trail. At about the 5mile mark of being off course, 2 cyclist were stopped in the middle of the road. The next 5+ miles would be gravel. So we turned around and headed back. Every side road was gravel. We had to back to point of missing the very obvious marks to rejoin the path. The storms caused trees to block our path.



On these Paul Bunyan moments made me wish for more engineers and few managers on the ride. The tree was firmly rooted and it was apparent that our effort was in vain to push it off to the side. The tree sprung back to its original position. This one would stay put until the man with the ax came.



It was a dark and stormy night...

The second night was truly that. Lightening filled the sky and the thunder caused the walls of the tent to vibrate like a toy drum. The rains came down hard causing torrents of water to flow off my poor tent. Winds gained momentum. The tent shuddered with each gust. I grabbed a hold of the tent by a loop in the ceiling and one of the poles. I just wanted the tent not to flying like a kite with me in it. It was then I noticed the ID band still on my wrist. Well at least they will be able to ID me when this is over. Then the storm moved on. Lightning and thunder growing ever more softer. When the sirens wailed for the second storm, we did not hesitate. We gathered the essentials and headed to shelter of the High School.

Ed "green socks" Gootee



Club History Article for Amishland and Lakes August Ride

Amishland and Lakes Ride 1976

Our first big ride that our bicycle group ever took was to the Amishland and Lakes Ride. Now of note is that we were not yet Southern Indiana Wheelmen, had no bicycle shorts, jerseys, bike shoes or helmets and no mileage to be recorded, but we all had panniers to carry our clothes. Several decided to ride to Howe, Indiana, and then to be joined by a large group of southern Indiana cyclist that would be driving up. So introducing those who decided to tackle the 280 miles were John and Judy Armes, sons, Jeff, a junior high student and 3 year old Kirk who rode all those miles on the back of his dad's bicycle; Joan Gilley and Karen VanCader who would be a senior at New Albany.

Karen's dad, Bill VanCader loaded our bikes on a boat trailer that he and Ken Walts had transformed into a bike carrier and drove us to Paul's Market in Otisco and unloaded us and the bikes and up State Road 3 we rode. We left on Monday and arrived in Howe on Thursday with one broken spoke about 3 miles from Howe, Indiana. Our destination was north to Sturgis, MI., and the famous Greebriar Motel. It had a pool, and large rooms. That motel would eventually become the motel we would stay in for many trips. The rest of our group arrived on Friday evening and our sleeping quarters were dorms of Howe Military Academy. There were also many colorful tents and campers in the field at the academy and in the next year or so became our mode of sleeping because the dorms were just too hot. We were just so excited to see so many cyclist in one spot and friends were made among them, one a group from Kokomo who eventually made their way to New Albany to ride with us one weekend.

The Amishland and Lakes ride was 50 miles each day. As I tried to remember there were around 1400 riders, some being pulled in buggers. It was a family ride. On Saturday, we rode on roads that took us past many Amish farms with their clothes hanging on a clothes lines, no electricity going to their homes, many with no shoes on and little children sitting out waving as we went by. Horses worked the farms instead of tractors and women pushed the old lawnmowers. If you saw a bunch of buggies parked in a field it was either a barn razing, wedding or if Sunday, church. Eventually one of the homes became a favorite to stop for homemade donuts. The day's ride took us through LaGrange, Topeka, and Shipshewanna which would become our annual lunch stop. Since Saturday was a grocery shopping day, we passed many buggies with large families waving as we passed them. Several cyclist would race the buggies if driven by a single male. If a man had a beard he was married and if he didn't have one, well you knew he wasn't married.

The first few years on Sunday we had to drive to Bonnieville Mills to start the ride, but eventually they started from the academy. One of the first things I remember seeing on the Sunday rides were fields of gladiolas of all colors. We also circled many lakes on Sunday, hence the lakes part of the ride.

Since that first, another group rode in 1970 of Kathy Bothwell, Bill and Jean VanCader and Joan Gilley, a different route but same destination. A few years later Alison Ewart and Boyd Siglar did it camping.

In 1977, the first annual Harvest Homecoming became a reality with many of the first planners being the ones who had ridden the Amishland and Lakes ride in 1976.

Today it's 2021, 45 years after our first trip and this year another group will be going. Starting location has changed, we've moved on to a better motel and the Amish have changed little. Now they do ride bikes with rubber wheels and have gasoline powered lawnmowers.

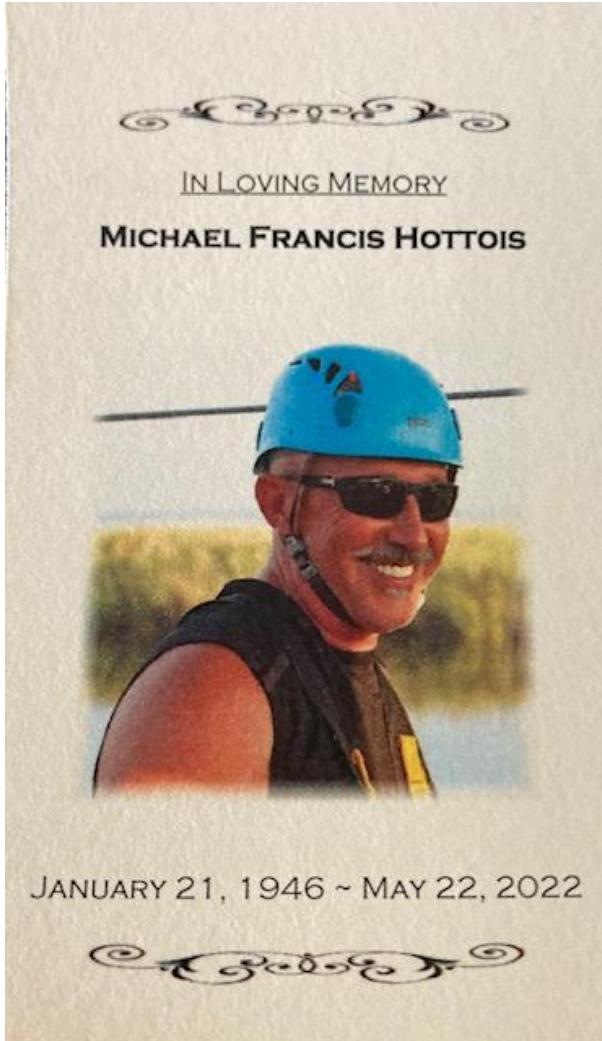
Joan Gilley

SIW Members In Memory....

James Weldon "Jim" Gresham

and

Michael Francis Hottois



Mark your
calendars

Southern Indiana Wheelmen presents...

Harvest Homecoming Bicycle Tour 2022

Save the date!
October 1, 2022

Southern Indiana Wheelmen Inc.
siwheelmen.org

- ♦ Saturday, October 1, 2022
- ♦ Lanesville Heritage Park
- ♦ Lanesville, Indiana
- ♦ 5/24/40/65 Mile Courses
- ♦ On line registration coming soon
- ♦ Tee-shirts and jerseys for sale
- ♦ \$45 adult/\$15 child registration
- ♦ Fundraiser for Dare to Care

Upcoming Events

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

| Date | Title | Location | RC |
|------|-------|----------|----|
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If you are interested in submitting pictures or an article to *The Sprocket* Newsletter please contact Holly Campbell at hcampbell6229@gmail.com.

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.