

# THE SPROCKET

## FALL 2024

### • PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE •

Welcome to Fall

Well, according to the calendar, it is almost fall. This summer seemed to fly by with some great weather (for the most part) and some great rides. Everyone is racking up the miles and we had another rider reach the 100,000 mile milestone, Joe Bolan. Congratulations, Joe!

There were some great out of town rides and one, Tour of Minnesota, was rained out. Always a gamble since none of us directly control the weather. RAGBRAI had much cooler and more comfortable weather than last year but had a lot more climbing and there was no rain. Regardless, there were some great local and out of town rides.

Next up is the Harvest Homecoming Ride September 28. Please check with Robenette Rosenberger to volunteer to help. Make sure to tell your friend's, at least those that ride bikes, about the ride. I consider it one of the prettiest series of rides in the region.

Make sure you attend the November meeting since there will be a couple of proposed changes for the SIW by-laws. You must be in attendance to vote and if you don't vote, don't complain. Rules and changes are made by majority vote so every vote counts.

Ride safely,  
John Neichter  
President

### SIW CONTACTS

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

Vice President: Maggie Ridge  
(812) 923-9576  
maggieannridge@gmail.com

Secretary: Teri Blackman  
(812) 786-2374  
mrsblackman@twc.com

Treasurer: Roben Rosenberger  
(502) 548-3145  
rosenberger1010@gmail.com  
P O Box 924  
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

Statistician: Bryan Huhnert  
(812) 704-2448  
SIWStatsTracker@outlook.com

Slowspokes Coordinator  
Jeanne Garrison-Young  
jeannegy@aol.com

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

Newsletter Editor  
Peggy Bannon  
pannbann@gmail.com

www.siwheelmen.org





# WELCOME



## NEW MEMBERS

Douglas Miller

Marta Hinson

Chuck Ellinger

Miranda Guenther

Brad Cooper

Robert Battista

Ken Atkins

Rhonda Rush

Edward Wade

Mindy Carter

Rush Carter

John Willoughby

Scott Buchanan

Jose Rodriguez

Julie Wilson

Alan McCoy

Joanna Bergum

Randy Murphy

Whitney Stiles



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# NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBD

## BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER    OCTOBER    NOVEMBER    DECEMBER

Roger Bauer  
Barb Beach  
Roger Bottorff  
Bernie Campbell  
Brian Christoff  
Tom Coulter  
Amanda Eddleman  
Alison Ewart  
Susie Hammond  
Marcia Koetter  
Andrea Neichter  
Shawn Quast  
Mary Ann Reynolds  
Mark Rieger  
Phil Samuel  
Jim Shelton

Bryan Baker  
Clare Burkhart  
David Campbell  
Jessica Christoff  
Terry Donovan  
Brad Farrell  
Anne Fogle  
Timothy Gettelfinger  
Bob Hamilton  
Robert Hogan  
Janet Jacobi  
Denny Leffler  
Judy Lowe  
Kristie Madison  
Leslie Malony  
Matthew Metzler  
Leah Ann Poindexter  
Christine Stickler  
Michael Truitt  
Stan Wheeler

Phyllis Andres  
John Bargerhuff  
Cindy Barranco  
Joe Bolan  
Jan Campbell  
Matthew Eddleman  
Charles Edelen  
Woodrow Elliot  
John Evers  
Bob Grable  
Bill Horton  
Robert Norcross, II  
Ray Thomas  
Michael Wright

Deborah Davis  
Bill Fible  
Joan Gilley  
Ron Loughmiller  
David Rausch  
Lewis Reyman  
Macy Ross

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# PHOTO GALLERY



## AMISH LAND





# RAGBRAI



This was the 51st year for the RAGBRAI ride in Iowa and it was billed as a "hilly year" with over 18,000 feet of climbing in a week with 450 miles or riding. None of the hills were really that bad (no Blunk Knob or Corydon Ridge) but mainly never ending rollers. The weather was warm but if you were on the road early, it was not too bad and it never rained or was very windy. The SIW group was smaller this year as was the ride in general with the overall numbers being around 16,000 versus last year's 20,000.

"It was one of the funnest rides this year with a good group and great weather," commented Joe Gutmann.



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# SUPERMAN



**Congratulations to Joe Bolan on his under 10-hour finish on RAIN. This included all stops, a flat tire and a broken pump. Our club Superman**



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# MINNESOTA





# WISCONSIN



## Thoughts on a bike in Wisconsin

As I ride through the country side, I enjoy the changes in the scenery caused by nature and man. Okay not all the changes made by humans. I ride at my own pace and I don't talk a lot when others are nearby. Not because I am antisocial but I cannot handle multiple tasks without courting disaster. And I reflected on the ride in Wisconsin.

Some club members were on a bike tour in Wisconsin hosted by PAWS. Jim and Debbie Shelton were the ride captains. Other riders were Tim and Jenny Gettelfinger, Mike Poindexter, Dennis Campbell and me. I had been there about 5 years ago and the major change was the improved riding surface. The terrain is comparable to ours: rolling hills with a few climbs but nothing steep. We stayed in motels which was nice. For those with e-bikes, it was a bonus not to be searching for a charging station. We managed to have good weather for the 7 days. There were lots of lakes and lots of lakeside cabins. Of course the occasional small town with an ice cream stop and cute stores. I found the boat lift over a dam very interesting. It is privately owned which surprised me. And of course you have the resident monster called the Hodag.

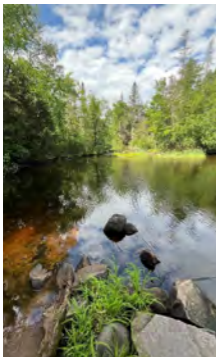


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# WISCONSIN



As a group there were numerous sightings of wildlife but no bears or moose. Lots of flowers both wild and in gardens were along the road sides. It all created a very pleasant backdrop for our rides. Of course after the rides we met a lot of different people at the happy hour before supper. One lady has been making pieces of art out of the old chains, sprockets and other discarded bike parts. Her most recent project was making wind chimes. She apologized for not having an example to show me. We swapped stories and expanded truths about other adventures as we had our adult beverages.

On a sad note Mike's bike got sick. It contracted the dreaded mystery noise syndrome. The bottom bracket needed to have the bearings replaced. We all offered our hopes and prayers for a speedy recovery. Mike was soon back on the bike waving for me to catch up as he crested the hill in front of us, very far in front of me.

There were many adventures that will only come out after more than a few beers or bottles of wine. It is a tour worth doing again. Third time is the charm!





# MONON



On July 16, SIW members gathered at the Borden Community Park to celebrate the Monon South Trail groundbreaking ceremony.

The threat of rain prevented a group of riders of arriving in true bike fashion but Joe Gutmann was proud to arrive on his bike, the closest ride start ever to his house! The new trail will span 62 miles. It starts in Mitchell and will end in New Albany.



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# CLUB PICNIC



On July 13, the heat didn't keep us away from both the club picnic ride and the delicious meal after. Thanks to everyone who made this possible. Looking forward to next year!



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Harvest Homecoming Ride

**Saturday  
September 28**

**See You There!**



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# ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in submitting pictures or an article to The Sprocket Newsletter please contact Peggy Bannon at [pannbann@gmail.com](mailto:pannbann@gmail.com)

# JOIN IN THE FUN

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 or 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](http://www.siwheelmen.org).

Additional information on bicycling in Indiana can be found by contacting

**BICYCLE INDIANA**

[info@bicycleindiana.org](mailto:info@bicycleindiana.org)  
[www.bicycleindiana.org](http://www.bicycleindiana.org)