

THE SPROCKET

WINTER 2025

• PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE •

2025 Wrap-Up

As I wrap up my second, and final, term as Southern Indiana Wheelmen (SIW) president, I look back at my unwritten goals to see how I have done. My main objective was to see our Harvest Homecoming Bicycle Tour (HHBT) numbers increase to at least 300 riders. Well, the 2024 HHBT ride could have been a financial fiasco but it was not. Okay, we had Hurricane Helene hit the region and drop six inches of rain and we had localized flooding. It was so bad the day of set up, I was trapped in my neighborhood by a fallen tree and had to be picked up by Robenette Rosenberger to get to Lanesville. (That tree was my neighbors and is now cut, split and dried waited to be burned in my wood stove.) We had over 200 riders pre-pay to ride and we had six riders register day of the ride that REALLY wanted to ride. I tried to talk them out of it for safety reasons but they all insisted and rode and came back.

Between our "no refund" policy and our sponsorships, we actually made money. Yes, we had a fair amount of expenses like site rental, food, portable toilets, etc. but we finished in the black. We also had enough to donate \$2,000 to Dare to Care food bank. I consider that a major win.

This year I did about everything I could to get the number to 300 but fell short at 275. But, with sponsorship and registration fees, we made a record profit, even with a \$2,000 donation to Dare to Care. Again, I consider that a major win.

This year was the 50 th year of SIW and to mark the occasion, I designed a kit for those who wanted to purchase either a jersey or shorts. Apparently, people like them because they about sold out. This was the third club jersey I designed and one of the most colorful. It is one of my favorites. Designing jerseys is not a responsibility of the president.

Cont...

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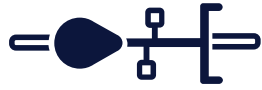
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

More importantly, I wanted everyone to ride safely and enjoy riding their bicycle. As anyone who has ridden with me knows, I try to be a safe rider and look out for everyone in the group. Many of us had accidents and like me, due to no fault of their own. In June I had a second dog (the first was in 2021) try to assassinate me while I was riding. So, I missed riding most of June, July and August. I am riding again but, not like I was in the past. It seems the older you get, the longer it takes to recover from things like this.

As I end my term, I want to mention that SIW is fortunate to have an excellent slate of Club officers. These individuals spent more time than they should for the Club. You, as a member, should be very grateful for their time and service. An organization is only as strong as its leaders and members. To them and all of you, I want to say thank you for letting me be your president the past two years. Lets support and help our new club president any way we can.

Ride Safely,
John Neichter
President, Southern Indiana Wheelmen



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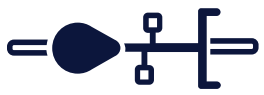
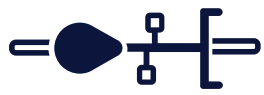


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AMISHLAND RIDE



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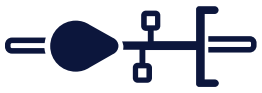
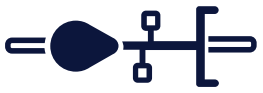


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OKHT RIDE



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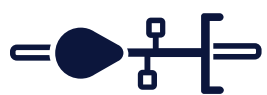
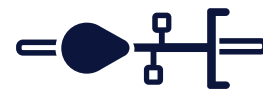


PHOTO GALLERY



BELGIUM TO AMSTERDAM



Four of us made this fabulous trip from Bruges, Belgium to Amsterdam: Joanna (my daughter), me, Carson & Allison Torpey. UTracks was a great company to go with, less expensive and no flub ups! The barge was very nice with delicious chef made meals.

Interesting pictures: a bike escalator to go down to a tunnel and under a river and back up again. Joanna braved it and lived. I took the huge elevator. All beers have their own designated glass that, by law, only that beer can be served in. A vending machine for fresh strawberries at a farm. Our boat, The Magnifique. Sights we saw: windmills, canals, sheep, cows, a cheese farm, churches, endless cobblestones. Foods we ate: french fries, chocolate, waffles, cappuchinos, lots of beer.

I'd go again if anyone is interested!

Ann Bishop

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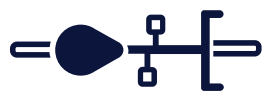
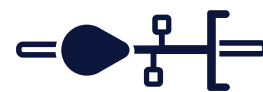


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PERU INDIANA



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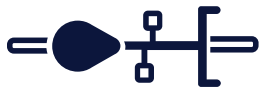
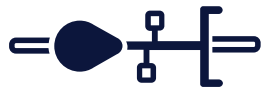


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WILKIE DAYS



5 covered bridges in 50 miles. Plus the start of the bike ride leads off the Wilkie Days Parade.



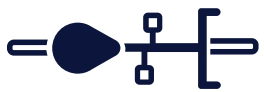
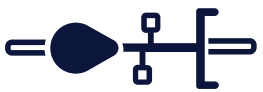


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MIDWEST TANDEM RALLY



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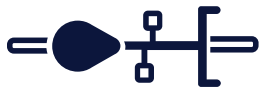
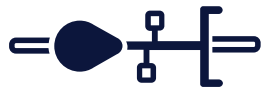


PHOTO GALLERY



MAINE TRIP

Beautiful trip with Summer Feet tours. Many Lighthouses, so much lobster, and even a porcupine munching in a bush.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Annette Wernert
Bill Wernert

—●— —●— BIRTHDAYS —●— —●—

NOVEMBER

Joan Gilley
Ron Loughmiller
Lewis Reyman

DECEMBER

Janet Bolan
Linda Donovan
Jack Pittman
Maggie Ridge
Debbie Shelton
Carole Sutton



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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

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.

Additional information on bicycling in Indiana can be found by contacting

BICYCLE INDIANA

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www.bicycleindiana.org