

...SPOKIN' WORDS...

COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS NEWSLETTER

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA CYCLISTS

affiliated

www.crcyclists.org
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JULY - AUGUST 2009

#3

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League of
American
Bicyclists
since 1979



May 23 Shavers Fork Loop with Ohio friends Smith photos May 24 Lindy Point Canaan Loop with Ohio friends
Mike and Kaye Smith brought their friends from Ohio for a cycling weekend, starting with our Shavers Fork Loop on Saturday. CRC ride leader Laurel decided to return Sunday to accompany them on the Canaan Loop. There was discussion among the group to return for more next year.

On May 31, about 30 Western Pennsylvania Wheelmen informally joined our ride Over Mt. Davis in their state. Country Roads Cyclists included: Kelly, Terry, Pat, Mike, Mike, Marilyn, Dave, Dave and Dennis. While this group was enjoying the view from atop the highest road in Pennsylvania, a group of about a dozen Western Maryland Wheelmen arrived, then went on their way, never to be seen again.

WEST VIRGINIA RISES IN BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATES LIST

The League of American Bicyclists released their second annual ranking of Bicycle Friendly States in May, scoring the 50 states on a 75-item questionnaire that evaluates a state's commitment to bicycling and covers six key areas (W.Va. ranking): legislation (50), policies and programs (47), infrastructure (28), education and encouragement (22), evaluation and planning (25), and enforcement (29). Overall, West Virginia's ranking rose from dead last, 50th to 42nd. Washington, Wisconsin, Maine and Oregon led the list, while Ohio (30), Pennsylvania (40) and New York (41) ranked near us.

MON RIVER TRAIL TO BE CLOSED

The Morgantown Utility Board announced its intention to close sections of the Caperton/Mon River Trail for construction of new sewer lines. While dates depend on receiving of grants and letting of contracts as well as detailed plans, it appears that they will try to close two segments for about six months each, 1) Hazel Ruby McQuain Park to the sewage treatment plant the first "winter" and from the water plant to the Park the second "winter." Morgantown cyclists, MBC and CRC members and others have indicated their concerns in several public meetings. Further considerations may include improving cyclist safety on several roads and streets as alternate routes, partial access in some areas and other ways to maintain the ability of cyclists to get around or through the areas affected. Stay tuned.

This newsletter with color photos is on crcyclists.org. last names removed

RAIN HITS THE APPALACHIAN SPRING SPECTACULAR

It looked like rain, and then it rained. Only fourteen determined participants came for the May 3 ride which usually attracts about a hundred cyclists. The picnic buffet (chicken, burgers, hot dogs and salads) at the Synergy Chophouse was prepared for a hundred, the minimum insurance fee was for over 50 and many of other expenses were likewise fixed with the expectation of at least that many, so the club lost several hundred dollars this year. (A detailed accounting, not yet finalized, will be available when completed.)

Meanwhile, the Monongalia Bicycle Club, which formerly sponsored the event, agreed to donate their entire treasury, saved from those earlier events, to the Country Roads Cyclists as Frank noted in a letter dated June 19, 2009:

Bill, Today, I put in the mail to you, a check made out to Country Roads Cyclists for \$555.06. This is from the Monongalia Bicycle Club. It is the total amount that was in the treasury. I hope that the CRC will use it to get more cyclists riding safely on the roads. Frank

This grand gift more than covers our losses, and in the spirit of Frank's hopes, member suggestions are invited (This is unofficial, as the officers have not met yet, though the check is in the bank, Thanks, MBC)

The honor roll of wetducks includes: CRC/MBCs Jack, John, Mark, Don, Frank, Ryan, Dennis, Patti, Kelly, MBC friends Fran and Craig, and PA guests Rick Drusechel, Robert Kerr and Charles Gregory Mills.

OFFICERS MET June 1 in Clarksburg for the usual reporting and planning session. Secretary Foster indicated a current membership of 111. Treasurer Foster indicated a balance of \$781.32 with several minor checks not yet written. A review of spring events and further plans were developed. (Most of these activities are included in this newsletter) Members are welcome to attend any officers' meeting. Contact any officer for the time and place of the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP currently totals 117, including 39 from Harrison and 42 from Monongalia Counties.

Welcome new members including Ty and Janey from Morgantown and returning members Mike of Philippi and Mary of Salem.

Condolences to Gene and Emil who recently lost their fathers



Laurel fords a Canaan Loop stream Smith photo

AN OFFER FROM THE CHEAT MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

This is Kim Broughton from the West Virginia Cycling Foundation. which presents the Cheat Mountain Challenge fund raiser bicycle ride at Snowshoe Mountain this year on August 15th. We need a few more volunteers to help watch the last few hundred yards of the ride and keep the path clear of folks and cars. In exchange for helping, we give you 2 free nights of lodging at Snowshoe August 14th and 15th. All the money stays in West Virginia and is used towards promoting safe and enjoyable cycling. I'd be happy to answer questions. Contact kimberlyjoshi@gmail.com (Please let me know, too -Bill Foster)

OTHER EVENTS (see March April newsletter or contact any Club officer for listing of regional events)

July 25 **J. Cecil Jarvis Memorial Triathlon** at Maple Lake (Bridgeport) swim 600 yards, bike 12 miles, run 3.1 miles. individual and relay teams (9:00 a.m.) www.iplayoutside.com

Aug. 9 The MedExpress Spirit of Morgantown Triathlon olympic, half & spring distances

Aug.15 **Wild 100k/50k** mt. bike race at Slatyfork www.ertc.com (In May they said it was Aug.16 -check)

Sept. 11-13 **Women's Weekend** clinic and riding at Slatyfork www.ertc.com (Sue Haywood is there)

Oct. 10 **Seagull Century** Salisbury, MD www.seagullcentury.org

THE TOUR DE REVS 2009 came through our area on May 19 on their mission to fight world hunger by riding a triplet bamboo bike as reported in our last newsletter. Reverends Fred, David & Ron got away from Pittsburgh early that morning so they could also ride the Mon River Trail from Morgantown to Pricketts Fort near Fairmont before putting the bike back in their trailer to shuttle to the south Fairmont Wal-Mart in the afternoon where CRC members Mark , Bill , Donna and Beth and Lutheran friends Alex McGloughlin (Charleston), John Knoll and Brian Bennett (Morgantown) accompanied them on the ride through Bridgeport to Clarksburg, where Laurel Klein and a City police escort joined through downtown Clarksburg to St. Marks Lutheran Church where a picnic party was prepared. The Revs presented their bike and their mission to a crowd of almost 200 appreciative onlookers. They also did an encore for students at St. Mary's elementary school in the morning. On their blog is this report:

Well – we finally hit fifty miles a day. Our goal was to be doing about 80 miles a day. But for the first many days, we were making so many stops, we didn't get much above 20 miles each day. It felt good to really pump the legs! We peddled through the busy streets of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on to the quiet West Virginia bike trail between Morgantown and Fort Prickett, and we joined other bikers and traveled from Fairmont to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Clarksburg. In Clarksburg we received a police escort. And what a beautiful sight we saw at St. Mark's. Over 150 people were gathered on the lawn and in the parking lot. Hot dogs were on the grill and watermelon was on the picnic tables. The Parish Pipers from the Shepherdstown Parish were making music and we had a grand old time. The TdR's made a report on our travels so far, different groups presented the TdR's with checks for Lutheran World Hunger, and we ended with a worship service. All in all, a wonderful day.

by Ron 'the Slacker' Schlak
www.tourderevs.org



About a month after the Three Revs visited in Clarksburg, they stayed a night at former Country Roads Cyclists Marcia and Dennis Gross's Light on the Lake Bed and Breakfast in Northeast, Pennsylvania (noted in Sept.-Oct. '07 "Spokin' Words") It wasn't on their original schedule, but then neither was Clarksburg. "We knew the pastors from our days in the Morgantown Lutheran community, so we got in touch and diverted their route to our B&B for the night," notes Marcia Gross. "They rode with a group of eleven local cyclists about eleven miles to the local Lutheran Church for a presentation. We would have liked to have been able to ride with them on our recumbent tandem." Their B&B website, www.lightonthelake.com notes, "We are located near excellent flat roads for bicycling."

(I hate to waste the space, but I'm out of time. -Bill)



TEXAS MOUNTAIN ROAD VISTA EASTWARD

The Fifth Annual MOUNTAIN ROADS BICYCLE TOURING FESTIVAL **Sunday, September 6, 2008** **Rowlesburg, West Virginia**

The Town of Rowlesburg, West Virginia is again offering, as part of its annual Labor Day Weekend Festival, another exciting bicycle touring event with three road rides presented by **Country Roads Cyclists**. **Registration for this free event begins at 8:00 a.m.** at Rowlesburg Community Park. **Rides start at 9:00.**

Three challenging routes start and end at Rowlesburg Park. A 20 mile moderate ride goes south to Etam and the International Earth Station (pictured, right) and back. The 56 mile ride goes south past Etam on Route 72 to St. George where a snack stop awaits, followed by a long climb up Location Road to Stemple Ridge Road on the way to Terra Alta and a long downhill returning via Salt Lick Road. The 78 mile option follows the same route, adding a Monongahela National Forest loop up on Texas Mountain for great views and a long coast back down to St. George. Maps and limited sag service are provided.

Country Roads Cyclists, with 150 members in north-central West Virginia, has over 25 years experience in planning cycling events, such as our Appalachian Spring Spectacular in Morgantown, West Virginia, on the first Sunday in May. Visit our website: www.crcyclists.org.



Rowlesburg is a family-friendly town; bring everyone! Start your day with a hearty breakfast served by the Volunteer Firemen at 8:00 a.m. at the Rowlesburg Park. Visit Rowlesburg's Railroad Museum and other Festival railroading features after your ride, and plan to enjoy dinner and entertainment in the Park, too. Check out the website, www.rowlesburgguide.com.

