

# ...SPOKIN' WORDS...

## COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS NEWSLETTER

SERVING NORTH CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA CYCLISTS

www.crcyclists.org  
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July - August 2011

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Mike, Don & Betty not in photo

Pricketts Fort picnic June 26, 2011

Photo by www.EpicRoadTrips.us

A great crowd of 29 cyclists, planning on enjoying our picnic at Pricketts Fort, didn't let the cloudy day threat of rain deter them from enjoying the delights of grillmaster Ray and the dishes we passed. Biking down from Morgantown were Doris , Cate , Carl & Connie , Nick , Jennifer I, Craig , Tim , Kelly and guests Arathy , Zach and Steve . Meeting them at Pricketts Fort were members Tom & Becky , Mike & Betsy , Don & Jeanette I, Bill , Andrew , Laurel , Ken , Dave & Betty , Bob & Patricia , Ray , Jim & Sandy .

Cate had warmed up for the ride from Morgantown, by doing the MedExpress Olympic distance triathlon Sunday before biking to the picnic. Several had participated in the Hilly Billy Roubaix Saturday, with Patricia and Tim finishing the grueling race while Cate, Bill, Bob and Kelly worked as course marshalls. At least ten of those attending are planning to enjoy the upcoming weekend in Emlenton, Pa. And you?

### A JULY BIKING WEEKEND IN NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**The home base:** Tom & Becky's summer place at 312 River Avenue, Emlenton, PA. (See May-June newsletter for lodging options and other details) **What to do:** **cycling** - rail-trails and great road rides, paved or dirt; **river play** - kayaks and canoes available, bring swimming suit or fishing gear (Pa. license required); a **Summer Festival** parade, crafts sales, food, **fireworks** Saturday night; **eat** - We may plan a cookout? nice restaurants in Foxburg and Franklin. **See [www.emlentonpa.com](http://www.emlentonpa.com)** How to get there from West Virginia: take I-79 north past Pittsburgh to I-80 east, to exit 42 Go north a short way to Emlenton - Clintonville Road PA 208. For Motor Inn or Campground turn left. For Emlenton accommodations, turn right on 208, downhill to cross Allegheny River bridge into downtown; take first right onto Main Street, soon right onto 3rd street, soon left on River Avenue. (Some staying in Franklin, contact Bill Foster)

## IT WAS A PERFECT DAY TO RIDE !

Fifteen cyclists came May 21 to pay their respects to past member J. Cecil Jarvis, riding his fateful route to the bridge on Skin Creek Road at Stonewall Jackson Lake for a brief remembrance, then back to Buckhannon for Mike's strawberry celebration of Cecil and cycling.

Participants included organizer/ride leader Mike Miller and son Morgan, Fat Tire Cycle's Gene and Sarah on tandem, Paul (cycling in from Clarksburg), Roger, Dave & Carla, and guests Adam Anderson, Arthur Currence, Andrew DiSilva, George Finly, Jessica Kuo, Kyle McCammon and Duncan Oliver. Bill drove sag. Mike provided the o-so-good post-ride strawberry shortcake. Thanks, Mike.

## A DECKERS CREEK WILDLIFE RIDE

When you are biking, you just never know what you may run into - turkeys, dogs, cats, deer, groundhogs, especially chipmunks and squirrels. But sometimes odd things pop up, camels or capybaras. Such was the case in June while biking the rail-trail, on the Masontown side of the falls on Deckers Creek, bursting forth out of the dark forest. Kelly at first pronounced it to be a wild pig, I said it was a tapir, and John agreed with me. All of us were wrong.

We decided to call Hovatters Wildlife Zoo and found out the critter was a capybara which had escaped. Mr. Hovatter came with a couple of extra guys to catch it. Kelly and John decided <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capybara> to return because John had to get back. I stayed to keep an eye on the capybara. They are a lot like a beaver without the flat tail, and they can swim well. As we found out earlier, they can also move fast out of the water.



Mr. Hovatter finally arrived, complete with a tranquilizer gun, but the capybara got away. I think it would make a great club mascot. So, if you happen to find yourself near the falls on Deckers Creek, watch for the capybara. They can be quite startling when bursting forth from the woods. (The camel is at a Fayette County farm with some llamas., Another farm has an African fallow deer.)  
Dave

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Neil - Buckhannon and  
Barry - Buckhannon (returning)

**The League of American Bicyclists** has returned West Virginia to 50<sup>th</sup> in their ranking of the states "friendliness" to cyclists.

**This newsletter** with color photos is on [crcyclists.org](http://crcyclists.org), last names deleted

## GREENBRIER RIVER RAIL-TRAIL REPORT

On June 14th I headed south to Marlinton. My plan was to stay at the Old Clark Inn and do some hiking in nearby Seneca State Forest and Watoga State Park and ride some of the Greenbrier River Rail-Trail which follows the river for most of it's 76 miles. In addition to full service rooms decorated with antiques, the **Old Clark Inn**



also has dorm style economy rooms for \$35 a night. Not surprisingly I chose the latter.

Photos by [www.EpicRoadTrips.us](http://www.EpicRoadTrips.us)



On Wednesday morning I hit **the trail** and peddled north towards Cass. The surface of the trail not being tight over it's entire length made the peddling a bit strenuous at times. I rolled into Cass and decided to get my annual milk shake to go along with my leftover fried chicken. While I was sitting on the porch of the Cass store, the train rolled in. After lunch I stretched out for a nap and then rode the 24 miles back to Marlinton.

In March of 2008 a fire so badly damaged the beautiful old depot at Marlinton that it had to be razed. Hopefully, the \$335,000 Transportation Enhancement grant which has been secured, combined with insurance proceeds, individual, corporate, and governmental donations, will be enough money to construct a new depot. See Mike's full report at [www.EpicRoadTrips.us/2011/summer/grtt/](http://www.EpicRoadTrips.us/2011/summer/grtt/)



## JUST SOME OF THE CYCLING WE DID ON JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>

### the Marietta River Rendezvous



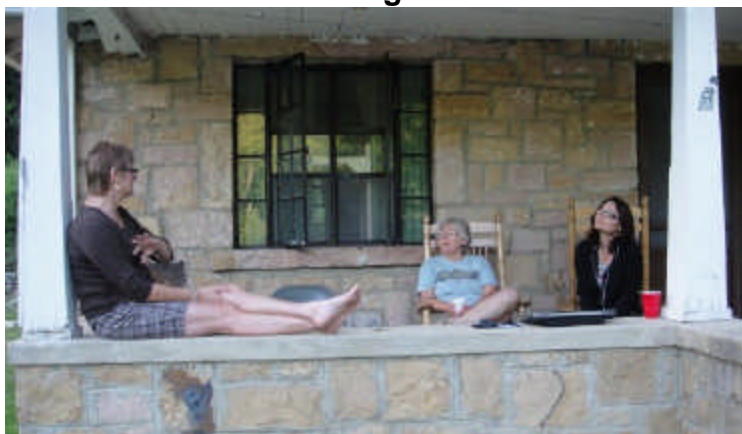
Jack, Marilyn, Connie, Carl and I spent the weekend in Ohio doing the Marietta River Rendezvous from Duncan Falls to Marietta Saturday and back the next day. Friday, we had a great meal at the Olive Garden as usual.

We had an 8:00 a.m. start in beautiful sunny weather Saturday (photo by Ken). After the lunch stop I tried to slow Connie down by bending her rim with my head. This did not work as she continued to earn her new nickname "Con Air" by flying up all the hills. Jack also decided to make the day of two cuties selling ice cold water on the route. "We have business! We have business!" they yelled. The last rest stop was at the Lowell Lock. We had a great spaghetti meal where we were entertained by Mr. Wikipedia who loudly proclaimed his knowledge of everything from PEDs to how to slice a mango, as well as by one of his audience who looked like a 70yo Beavis. We then went to the Brew pub and had a futile search on their TV for the Belmont (wrong Saturday) and were treated to a surprise appearance by Walter , who was recovering from a foot injury and did not ride ("Their routine is predicable." Walter). Jack went exploring and we wound up listening to a Dixieland Band until our paddle wheel boat began loading - lovely cruise.

That night we were treated to horrendous thunderstorms and a forecast for rain in the a.m., but the storms passed quickly and we were off just after 7:00 a.m. in mostly dry conditions. We even avoided being "Runned over" by a Buffalo. We also learned that Jack is one of the few to have escaped Marylin's basement and that we may need to rename our club "Country Roads Cycling and Hunting Club". I hope you folks had as much fun as I did! Ken

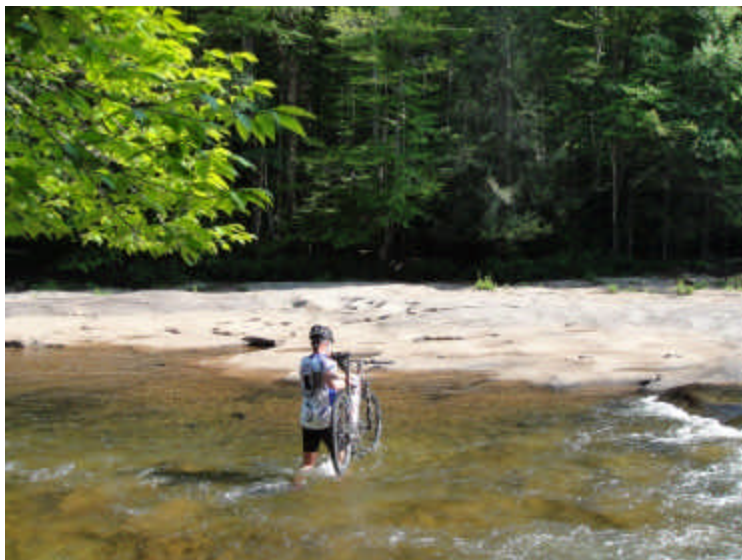
**Also, six members rode the Hackers Creek Road from Jane Lew, and two more a Pa. loop. ed.**

### the West Virginia RAVE



Kaye, Laurel, and Kelly on the porch of our accommodations

Saturday, June 4th, eight CRC members participated in the third annual RAVE ride in Cowen, WV, a Habitat for Humanity fund-raiser. The members were Mike and Kaye , Dave and Carla , Kelly , Laurel , Gene , and Les . Routes ridden varied from fifty to one hundred miles. This is a growing ride with fantastic scenery and great support. The fifty mile ride is out and back and parallels the scenic Williams River nearly the entire distance. The longer routes offer some challenging climbing and the Highland Scenic Highway for really great views. We spent a couple nights at Camp Caesar, the location of the RAVE start. Accommodations were good along with an evening supper and breakfast. Very reasonable. All riders were treated to a great post-ride supper as well. Looking forward to doing this event again.



Mike crossing the Williams River for some slick rock riding Sunday Mike, Kaye, Kelly, Laurel, and Les did part of the Lobelia Loop produced by Dale Porter of the Mountain State Wheelers. The section we did paralleled the Greenbrier River, another very scenic ride. Mike

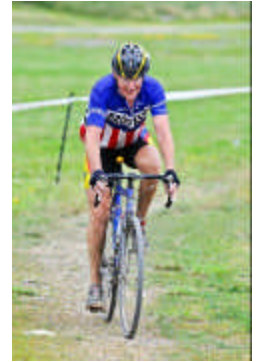




Betsy finishing

## HILLY BILLY ROUBAIX

They didn't mention the 133 participants (only 17 DNF) and many volunteers helping J.R. put on another great race, or the mild weather (after the heat last year) or the newly paved road going out of and returning to Mylan Park. They didn't note that three-flats Shogren placed second in the single-speed category within two minutes of the winner. (In May he won the 40+ cat. at the Tour of Tucker County.) nor that CRC members Tim and Patricia also both finished (although the photographer had gone by the time she came in), **otherwise**,



and Tim, too.

**Pittsburgh Racing got it right:** <http://pghracing.org/2011/06/27/hilly-billy-roubaix-2011-results-and-photos/>

"The 2nd annual Hilly Billy Roubaix took place Saturday in West Pennsylvania. Race director J.R. Petsko put together the dirt/gravel/mud/puddle/hill/blood/sweat/tear-covered course which stretches 72 miles in one giant loop over some of the most questionable "roads" you've ever seen. The Hilly Billy also lives up to its name in that there is over 7000 feet of climbing, most of which takes place on gravel-covered roads. Mike Mihalik, with the aid of his Freddie Fu teammate Joe Ruggery, took the fastest time (4:19 or approx. 16.7mph). That gave Mike the under 40 and overall win while Joe took the 40+ win. Betsy Shogren (Dynamic Physical Therapy) repeated her victory in the women's race from last year. For many racers, the only goal was finishing, which would take some upwards of 8 hours. Below are some photos captured by Fred Jordan while risking his life on the back of Ryan Post's dirt bike."



all photos by Fred Jordan, these show some of the worst "roads" and Ryan cleaning his bike?

[http://fredjordan.smugmug.com/Sports/Hilly-Billy-Roubaix-June-25/17741030\\_cTcFDb#1354352119\\_NphR4H3](http://fredjordan.smugmug.com/Sports/Hilly-Billy-Roubaix-June-25/17741030_cTcFDb#1354352119_NphR4H3)

Race Results - <http://www.abracing.com/Results/2011HBR.html> Course Map - <http://connect.garmin.com/activity/35582192>

### Another version of Fayette County, Pennsylvania backroads

Larry showed up for the Saturday ride in Fayette County. It was a cool start with pleasant temperatures, a nice day for a ride. A lot of roads had been recently tarred and chipped, but it was a good job, different than in W.Va. The road past Footdale gets shady and quiet, with the only noises from singing birds. But then you hit "The Climb," a classic with switchbacks and a 16% gradient. We had a good rest getting there, so it was not that hard. Larry, who has done the Mt. Washington climb in New Hampshire, had no problem at all. The climbing was not over however, plus it didn't help that I made a wrong turn, so went two miles out of our way, but we eventually made it to the hill overlooking Masontown, where we took a break for the view. A beautiful descent goes under Rt 21, and into town. We stopped again at a Mennonite Church for another break. We eventually made it back to White House, but we weren't in any hurry, as it was just a beautiful day for biking. Forty-two miles, a little over 3500 feet of climbing, Fayette County lived up to its hilly nature. Dave

## COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS

### JULY - AUGUST 2011 RIDE SCHEDULE

Road Captain Kelly Williams 304-292-9821 kellyrwilliams@msn.com

Contact listed ride leader for details. Please carpool to the start whenever possible.  
Wear your Helmet. Difficulty Ratings: (\*) easy (\*\*) moderate (\*\*\*) difficult (\*\*\*\*) extreme

**Saturday, July 2 10:00 Fallen Timbers Jack 304-282-6275**  
(\*\*\*) 40 miles. Meet at Morgantown's Courthouse Square, High Street. Ride into Fayette County via Dug Hill, Canyon Road, Stewartstown Road. Then up Nilan Hill and onto back roads through the countryside. A few hills.

**Sunday, July 3 10:00 Maple Run Road Patricia 304-641-6444**  
(\*\*) 15 miles. Meet at the Maple Lake Parking Lot. Some Hills. We will be on US 50 for a very short time, then it will be a pleasant ride on quiet back roads. There are options for a longer ride also. Please call Patti if you are running late.

**Friday, July 8 - Sunday July 10 Weekend in Emlenton, Pa. Tom & Becky Berlin**  
(\*\*) varies as you wish. Road and rail-trail rides from Berlin's in Emlenton, also boating, swimming, partying, festival, fireworks and more fun. (see also May-June "Spokin' Words")

**Saturday, July 9 10:00 Tour of SW Greene County Peter 724-231-7087**  
(\*\*\*) 50 miles. Park at Spring Hill-New Freeport School. (take RT 18 into New Freeport, PA. School is on the left 1 mile down SR3010/Deep Valley Road.) Loop through southwest Pennsylvania on country roads. Hilly.

**Sunday, July 10 no ride scheduled**

**Saturday, July 16 10:00 Tappan Hill to Adaland Marilyn 304-598-5078**  
(\*\*\*) 35 miles. Meet at the Boothsville Firehouse. From I-79 South Fairmont exit 132 go towards Grafton on US 250 South. The Firehouse is at the Bingo Hall on the right about 5 miles from the exit, not actually in Boothsville. We will ride out to Adaland Mansion, a historic mansion built in the 19th century, rest there (bathrooms and water available), then return. A hilly ride with several long climbs. Note: There will be a Civil War Tea at Adaland that day.

**Sunday, July 17 1:30 Jarvisville Loop Laurel 304-782-4117**  
(\*\*) 23 to 30 miles From Marshville exit Rt 50 west. One of our favorite rides. One large hill on Patterson Fork, or maybe we'll go a bit further. Return through Salem

**Saturday, July 23 10:00 North Bend Rail Trail Laurel 304-782-4117**  
(\*&1/2) 27 miles From depot at Pennsboro. From Rt 50 west, take Rt 74 north into Pennsboro. Stay on it as it zigzags into town and up to the depot. Flat rail trail with good mountain bike surface. Four tunnels each way to Cairo and back.

**Saturday, July 23 10:00 Over Mt. Davis Jack 304-282-6275**  
(\*\*\*) 50 miles. Meet at the park in Confluence. We will ride out to Mount Davis (the highest peak in Pennsylvania, 3123 feet), then on to Meyersdale for lunch. After lunch, we climb Mount Davis again, returning to Confluence.

**Sunday, July 24 1:30 Jane Lew casual ride Bill 304-623-2736**  
(\*&1/2) 20 to 30 miles From Jane Lew I-79 exit 105, park on dead end side road in front of the truck stop just east of I-79) Choice of several pleasant, scenic rides, relaxed pace

**Saturday July 30 10:00 Tarkiln Road Loop Ken 304-669-9822**  
(\*\*) 31 miles. Meet at the Tarkiln Road exit off of US 50 west of Salem. We will ride a loop of RT 23 and Big Flint Road. A convenience store is on the route.

**Sunday, July 31 11:00 Connellsville to Ohioypyle Kelly 304-292-9821**  
(\*) 32 miles. Meet at the Connellsville River Park. We will ride the Great Allegheny Passage to Ohioypyle, have lunch, then return. A pleasant ride along the Youghiogheny River in the summer.

# COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS

## JULY - AUGUST 2011 RIDE SCHEDULE

**Saturday August 6 10:00 Fayette County Loop Dave 304-594-1036**

(\*\*) 30 miles. Park at the Free Methodist Church in White House on RT 857, one mile north of the PA state border. (Park towards the Tobin School Road side.) A road ride over the hills and through the valleys of Fayette county, PA. Low traffic. Hilly ride.

**Sunday, August 7 10:00 Meathouse Fork Loop Walter 304-873-2259**

(\*\*) 50 miles. Meet at the Marshville Exit. We will bike Jarvisville road to Meathouse to RT 18 to Snowbird to Long Run. Some riding on US 50.

**Saturday, August 13 1:00 Mount Morris to Kirby Loop Kelly 304-292-9821**

(\*\*) 25 miles. Meet at the yellow brick church in Mt. Morris (from I-79 Mt. Morris exit, drive to the intersection with RT 19.) We will bike up Shannon Road, cross over to Kirby, then down RT 19 returning to Mt. Morris. Lunch will be at the Rising Creek Bakery.

**Sunday, August 14 10:00 Halleck Road to Deckers Creek Kelly 304-292-9821**

(\*\*\*) 50 miles. Meet at Morgantown Sabraton Wendy's RT 7 East. Ride the trail to RT 73, Tom's Run, Halleck Road, and then RT 92 into Arthurdale. Return via the Deckers Creek Trail.

**Saturday, August 20 9:00 Snake Hill Marilyn 304-598-5078**

(\*\*) 30 miles. Meet at Morgantown Sabraton Wendy's RT 7 East. We will climb Dug Hill, then Snake Hill and return down Deckers Creek trail. There is an option of cycling down Kingwood Pike to Summer School Road.

**Sunday, August 21 1:00 Little Falls to Opekiska Kelly 304-292-9821**

(\*\*) 30 miles. Meet at the Morgantown MedExpress parking lot, University Ave (RT 119). We will bike along the trail to Little Falls. We will then climb Little falls road to RT 73, and down Opekiska Road. Return to Morgantown via the trail.

**Sunday, August 21 1:30 Brushy Fork out and back Bill 304-623-2736**

(\*\*) up to 30 miles From Bridgeport, Deegan Lake parking lot. Rt 50 east into Bridgeport, turn right at the light past Ace. When this road (Rt 58) bears right, continue straight on the lake road to the picnic shelter and tennis courts. Easy out and back ride with just a couple of hills each way

**Saturday, August 27 10:00 South Marion County Ride Dave 304-594-1036**

(\*\*) 35 miles. Park at the Prickett's Fort trailhead. (From I-79 exit 139, turn west, follow signs to Prickett's Fort.) Bike south through Colfax and the hills around southern Marion County.

**Sunday, August 28 12:00 Prickett's Fork Trail Ride Kelly 304-292-9821**

(\*) 38 miles. Park at the Prickett's Fort trailhead. (From I-79 exit 139, turn west, follow signs to Prickett's Fort.) Celebrate the reopening of the MonRiver South Trail. We will bike to Morgantown, have lunch in town, then return on the trail.

**Sunday, Sept 4 Mountain Roads Touring Festival Rowlesburg**

**Sunday September 25 September Century Salem to New Martinsville and back**