



Pedalwheeling

The Newsletter of the Quad Cities Bicycle Club – December 2002

Fall Foliage Adventure

Deb & Dean Mathias

October 12 & 13, 2002

A total of 25 cyclists traveled to Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, to join ride organizers, Deb and Dean Mathias, for all or part of the QCBC Fall Foliage ride. On Saturday, 24 participated including Dave Alftine, Sheila Burns, Barb Donald, Phil Fellner, Bob Fitzgerald, Jo & Bob Gillman, Dick & Karen Grimm, Rodger Horst, Bill & Sue Heitbrink, Steve & Nancy Montgomery, Ken Ossian, Marv Scher, Merle Schleusener, Kathy & Bill Storm, John & Barbara Wessel, and Susie Wolf, along with Dean and Deb.

We gathered at the Mt. Horeb Military Ridge State Park Trail parking lot for distribution of maps, directions, and some pep talk. After a week of perfect Indian summer type weather with temperatures in the 70s, we hit the road shortly after 9:00am with overcast skies and the threat of rain by afternoon.

Jo and Bob chose the flat course along the Military Ridge Trail and enjoyed a trip in the westerly direction. "A wise decision!" others may have thought about 2 hours later. The other 22 set out on the more vertical and scenic route.

Within an hour the first moisture appeared in the air, which returned off and on throughout the day. The temperature stayed around 62°, making the light rain relatively tolerable as long as we kept moving. The only real hindrance created by the rain was free coasting down the long, long hills.

After a re-grouping at the Blue Mounds Grocery, we all headed UPHILL to Blue Mounds State Park. At the urging of the ride leaders, everyone succeeded in biking and/or walking the steepest of the day's hills to the lookout area of the park. Those who climbed the

tower were greeted by a colorful view of the fall treetops, despite the thick overcast. The comment heard now was, "But Dean told us it would be ONLY ONE hill to the park. He did not mention THE LENGTH OR THE GRADE!"

However, the reward came with the GREAT coast back down the hill. From the park, Sheila, Dick and Karen decided to beat the weather (and the hills) and head back to Mt. Horeb by way of the Military Ridge Trail. "A wise decision!" others may have thought a couple hours later. This option allowed them time to visit the Cave of the Mounds and for Dick to ride almost to Madison.

Moving forward, the remaining 19 riders continued up and down many very long and sometimes steep hills. Deb caught up with a small group who were studying a map and contemplating a shortened route. She arrived just in time to talk them into going the whole distance. "A wise decision!" they thought later. Hopefully!

After about 34 miles, the first 14 cyclists arrived in Mazomanie. Everyone was so hungry they headed for the first food in site, inundating the Mazo Deli. With only 2 tables and 6 chairs, the group overtook the place and overwhelmed the one woman working the counter. But she served us quickly and trusted us to pay our bills on the way out.

Phone contact with Dean and the remaining 4 told us that a tire blowout by the tandem duo, Bill and Sue, had slowed them down. John Wessel had doubled back when he heard the blowout. Barb had forged ahead.

John, Dean, Sue and Bill worked as a synchronized repair team, which first included eating some energy bars. The first inner tube replacement extruded through the sidewall of the front tire. (Cont. - page 4)

Key Contacts

Officers:

President - Warren Power (563) 391-5466 warrenpower@mchsi.com
Vice President – Errol McCollum (309) 762-8252 ecmed@netexpress.net
Recording Secretary – Jane Garrett (563) 441-9115 jag@revealed.net
Treasurer – Darlene Moritz (563) 386-3499

Club Web Site:
www.qcbc.org

Board Members:

Terry Burke Joe Jamison Jean Kelly
Dave Lefever Deb Mathias Karen Nord
Tim Phlypo Charlie Sattler Bill Wiebel

Key Contacts:

Annual Dinner – John and Barb Wessel (563) 359-8350
Competitive Events – Terry Burke (309) 797-3790
Du-State-Du Duathlon – Kentley Loewenstein (563) 359-5
Endurance Rides – Joe Jamison (309) 755-6801
Fall Foliage Ride – Deb and Dean Mathias (309) 787-6547
Fast Rides – Bill Wiebel (309) 755-1859
General Meetings – Errol McCollum (309) 762-8252
Heartland Century – Bill Wiebel (309) 755-1859
Leisure Rides – Jan Reynolds (309) 797-2072
Membership Administration – Anne Flesichman (563) 332-4212
MidPaced Rides – Jim Karr (563) 441-9115 and Kathy Storm (563) 355-2564
Newsletter Editor – Kathy Storm (563) 355-2564
Publicity – Jean Kelly (563) 359-9508
QC Criterium – Terry Burke (309) 797-3790
QC Triathlon – John Punkiewicz (309) 788-7544
RAGBRAI – Andy and Perm Horst (563) 381-3488
Ride Schedule – Bill Wiebel (309) 755-1859
TOMRV – Susie Laforce (563) 355-5530
Website – Cy Galley (309) 788-3238

Membership Count: 11/1/02
of Members by Membership Type

Individual	441
Couple	256
Family	408
Complimentary	24
Life	6
Total	1,135

Commercial Ads in Pedalwheeling:

¼ page	\$25.00
½ page	\$50.00
full page	\$100.00

Please email to:

Mission Statement: To promote, encourage, and support the safe participation in bicycle riding of all ages and abilities; to anticipate and address the needs and interests of all aspects of bicycling in the Quad Cities Area.

Club Meetings: are held at 7PM on the third Tuesday of every month during: January, February, March, April, May, September and October at Rivermont Collegiate, 1821 Sunset Dr., Bettendorf, IA. (3 blocks north of K & K Hardware.) Contact Warren Power for program.

Submitting Articles for newsletter: Deadline is the 10th of the month. Email to: gcbceditor@yahoo.com or send to: Kathy Storm, ATTN: QCBC Newsletter, 2708 Elm Street, Davenport, IA 52803.

Major Activities of the Club Include: Tailwind Century in May, Criterium Bike Races on Memorial Day, Tour of the Mississippi River (TOMRV) in June, charter bus service on RAGBRAI in July, Du-State-Du Duathlon in August, Heartland Century in September and our Annual Dinner in November.

Benefits of Being a Club Member Include: 11 issues of Pedalwheeling per year, Annual Issue of Ride Schedule and Membership Directory booklet, 10% discount at QC Area Bike Shops, ability to use LAB “Bikes Fly Free” program on selected airlines and discounts on TOMRV and the Heartland Century.

From the Headset

Warren Power

As I take over the office of President of the club, I can't help but think back to the last time I was president of the club. It was 1987. I received a call from Vern Gielow, who didn't ride bicycles but had a vision of having a recreational trail on the Mississippi river from Rock Island to Savanna. I remember thinking of the enormity of the task and I was very skeptical that one individual would have enough clout to accomplish this goal. He had called to invite the club to join him and several civic leaders to the ribbon cutting for the first leg of this trail, a small concrete section in a park on the South side of Hampton, IL.

Vern spent the next 15 years of his life relentlessly working with various city, county and state authorities pursuing his goal. Today we have a wonderful recreational path, over 50 miles in length, starting at Sunset Marina in Rock Island and ending in Thompson, IL with plans in place to extend it to Savanna. Vern Gielow passed away on Oct. 31st so he will not see the completion of the final piece of the trail, but without his efforts, none of this would have happened. So when you're riding the Illinois Bicycle trail take a few moments to think about Vern Gielow and all of the effort he put providing you this wonderful trail.

Over the past two years, Kathy Storm has served as president of the QCBC. Those of you who know and have worked with Kathy know that she was truly dedicated to the job and spent many hours each month ensuring the club operated smoothly. I'd like to thank Kathy for all of her hard work. I hope that I can perform half as well as she did in the position of President. Kathy is going to continue her

Update on Dave Lefever

Kathy Storm

On Friday, November 8th, Dave underwent surgery to have a shunt put in his skull to permanently provide a way for fluid and/or blood build up to drain from his brain into his stomach where it will be absorbed. He spent the week of November 11th at Genesis West receiving intensive in-patient therapy. He continues

club involvement as the Newsletter Editor. I'm sure she will perform admirably in her new position.

Andy Horst is stepping down from his job as board member. I'd like to thank him for all of the hours he has put in over the past few years. Andy and his wife Perm will continue on as RAGBRAI Coordinators.

I'd like to welcome Errol McCollum and Tim Phlypo to the QCBC Board of Directors. Errol is the new Vice President and Tim is a board member. Both of these individuals are long time members of the QCBC, but neither has performed in a leadership role with the club in the past. Knowing their backgrounds, I'm sure that following a short "get up to speed period" they will do a wonderful job of helping to lead your club through the next year.

We are looking for chairperson for a few activities during 2003. I will be looking for replacements for these chairpersons over the next couple of months, so you may receive a phone call from me. The most critical need at this time is to put together a team to assemble the ride schedule for 2003. This usually involves one person who coordinates the overall effort, an editor who does the computer compilation of the information and several experienced riders from the area that provide input for rides and activities. It's a great opportunity for you to have a major role in deciding what rides we will have in 2003. If you are interested in helping with the ride schedule, let me know.

I know it's getting cold outside, but we still have scheduled riders choice rides every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday. Come and join us.

to experience difficulty with memory loss at this date.

Please keep Dave and Adele in your thoughts and prayers. Additional information can be found on the QCBC web site in the upper left hand corner of the Home Page.

Adele and Dave can be reached at: (563) 355-6476 or 1735 Piccadilly Place, Davenport, IA 52807.

Welcome New QCBC Members
Anne Fleischmann, Membership Coordinator

Name	City & State	Phone	Name	City & State	Phone
Jill Bouvier	Bettendorf, IA	(563) 332-8265	Gabe Minc	Chicago, IL	(312) 360-6519
Steve Peterson	Bettendorf, IA	(563) 355-4273	Eileen & John Wosaba	Coal Valley, IL	(309) 799-7547
Scott Swanson	Bettendorf, IA	(563) 508-8958	Sheila Burns	East Moline, IL	(309) 752-1952
Dave Hinchman	Davenport, IA	(563) 355-7160	Monte Gordon	East Moline, IL	(309) 755-8097
David Keller	Davenport, IA	(563) 386-6473	Ralph Tyner	East Moline, IL	(309) 497-9329
Frank & Debbie Lovejoy	Davenport, IA	(563) 322-5254	Diane Stillwell	Erie, IL	(309) 659-2328
Gregg Macheta	Davenport, IA	(563) 359-7098	Mark Schweertman	Forreston, IL	(815) 938-2292
Patrick Maguire	Davenport, IA	(563) 324-3678	John & Vickie Dowers	Galesburg, IL	(309) 344-3777
Mark Merches	Davenport, IA	(563) 386-0711	David Eckles	Moline, IL	(309) 743-0274
Bruce Nelson	Davenport, IA	(563) 326-5624	Scott Grissom	Moline, IL	(309) 736-1147
Herb & Sue Page	Davenport, IA	(563) 386-2042	Rock Woodstook	Rock Island, IL	(309) 794-1310
Richard Kasper	LeClaire, IA	(563) 320-6661	Anthony Spahr	Westmont, IL	(603) 963-5621
Robert & Stacie Turpin	Walcott, IA	(563) 284-9494	Alison Pine	Bethlehem, PA	(609) 221-6090

Fall Foliage Adventure
(cont. from page 1)

Fortunately, the 26-inch spare fold-up tire that Dean has carried forever fit on the tandem wheel. In an effort to use CO₂ cartridges to inflate the tire, Bill was unable to shut his off and pitched it into the grass. Dean barely managed to inflate the tire to 40 psi with his cartridge even though it was designed to fill two tires. John decided to not even attempt to use his cartridge. The team definitely could have used more in-service on the use of CO₂ cartridges! But they were now back on the road!

Meanwhile, the 14 in Mazomanie were warmed up and filled up and ready to trudge onward to hopefully stay ahead of any bad weather. After gaining more altitude, Deb was questioned, "You guys didn't really ride this route with your bikes, did you?" "You Bet!" she replied. "This is our second run at it with a test run made this summer."

After more than a few hills we arrived at the top of the last major climb. Most were probably too fatigued to enjoy or even notice the beautiful yellow fall foliage in Brigham Park. Most riders decided to take the busier and rougher but flatter and shorter route along Route ID back to Mt. Horeb. That is, all except those that had the fortune of riding with Deb (or misfortune,

depending on your viewpoint at that point in time). She encouraged riding the more scenic but hillier and longer (by 2.5 miles) Route JG. For Dave, Merle, Sue, Rodger, Barb, and Deb a nice coast on new asphalt and the beautiful scenery made the final series of gradual hills back into Mt. Horeb well worth it! And with that, they can say they climbed approximately 4500 feet in 55 miles!

The last of this group managed to finish before the weather turned nasty. This was not true for the pack of 5. After eating at the Deli, Barb decided to stay in Mazomanie to defrost. By the time the other 4 reached the last major summit, the temperature was dropping, the wind was gusting, and the precipitation was transforming into a solid sleet state.

One car stopped and asked John if he would like a ride. Of course, John readily declined! From Brigham Park, John continued on to Mt. Horeb while the remaining pack of 3 took a break in the park. However, they soon hustled on as the bodies began to chill just standing around and the forceful wet wind made it difficult to focus on picture taking. Hypothermia was only a couple minutes away as they took off with chattering teeth. At the bottom of the hill, they observed a horse (cont. page 5)

**Fall Foliage Adventure
(cont. from page 4)**

drawn coach waiting for a bride and groom...Brrrrrr!

After warm showers and a swim for some, we gathered at the Sole Saponi Sicilian and Italian Restaurant for a fantastic buffet dinner consisting of tossed salad, bread, Vegetarian Lasagna, Tortellini Alla Boscaiola, Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti with choice of Meat Sauce or Marinara Sauce and even dessert of tiramisu...quite a bargain at \$15.00!

Deb, Barb, Merle, and Dean acted as gracious servers and passed the big trays of food to the other famished cyclists. The group surprised us with an appreciation gift that included some Mt. Horeb (Troll Capital of the World) memorabilia. After some pleasant conversation everyone went away full and satisfied, ready for a good night's sleep.

Sunday, we rose to frost outdoors and a temperature of 30° but with perfectly clear skies as we left town at 8:00 a.m. Dave Alftine, Barb Donald, Rodger Horst, Linda Lueders, Nancy & Steve Montgomery, Ken Ossian, Marv Scher, Merle Schleusener, Bill & Kathy Storm, and Susie Wolf joined us to make a group of 14 cyclists hitting the road this morning. Dave and Merle informed us all that camping on the hill at Brigham Park the night before afforded them with a spectacular starlight show in the clear sky.

Most of the first 6 miles outside of town were downhill keeping our fingers and toes a bit chilled. But we were soon greeted by the first of several long uphill climbs that aided in warming us.

After a quick 24 miles, we arrived in New Glarus with the group staying pretty close together today. Arriving a bit early for the activities of the October Festival, the group scattered to check out a variety of restaurants and/or bakeries. After re-fueling we gathered once again for a mass departure from town. For the 18-mile return trip we had several more hills to climb along with a strong north wind to fight.

The group spread out a bit over the miles of hills but re-grouped a couple more times to allow for altering clothing layers, photo taking, pit stops, and some resting. All completed the day's ride and arrived back in Mt. Horeb by 1:00 p.m. with the temperature still only a mere 42°.

Our bicycling weekend in Wisconsin was now complete with memories of hills, scenic vistas, and camaraderie. The riders had risen (out of their seats?) to the hilly challenge and/or explored the Military Ridge Trail, and discovered new bicycling territory for future personal adventures.

We would like to give credit to Verle and Sue Dau for Sunday's route, which they organized back in the 80s.



Fall Foliage 2002

Enjoying the view from atop the scenic lookout at Blue Mounds State Park:

Pictured in front:

Barb Donald & Dave Alftine

Pictured in back (L to R)

Merle Schleusener, Rodger Horst, Bill Storm, Susie Wolf, Ken Ossian and Deb Mathias

Photo courtesy of Deb Mathias

**An Interesting Two-Day Bicycle Trip
Carter & Kaye LeBeau**

A bicycle adventure does not have to be far away, or for many days. We had 2 free days on August 30th & 31st - a Friday and Saturday, so grabbed the credit card and our pannier bags and took off from our house in Davenport.

Used the Arsenal bridge and the Moline bike path to our breakfast stop at Brother's, in Rapids City. Before we got there, ran into Don & Megan Horton. They used to be active QCBC members. Took a few pictures and renewed memories. Our lunch stop was early, in Albany. Made a stop at the windmill in Fulton, more pictures, and another beverage stop in Thomson, with pumpkin and squash pictures at the watermelon stand. We made our overnight stop at Buck's Barn. A nice cocktail hour, and watched network news and The Wheel. Liked the room so much we had room service for dinner. This facility is interesting, and is actually a minor resort. Lots of photo opportunities.

Left early on Saturday, taking Rt. 84 to Savanna. Stopped to view the unique commercial potato farm. Then biked through town and over the Sabula bridge. Breakfast at one of our favorite Midwest cafes - The Island Cafe in Sabula. Best pancakes in the world. This area is beautiful for biking. Took the causeway west, and then south on Rt. 67 to Clinton. In Clinton

a visit to St. Boniface church and St. Irenaeus. Both of these are historic Clinton Catholic churches. Our lunch stop was the Rose Cafe in Clinton. Again, a cafe we have enjoyed before. We would also recommend this to anyone who has not been there. (Not open Mondays)

We continued on Rt. 67 to Camanche. The Lite House was our beverage stop, and this is a new fancy sport's bar restaurant that a town 20 times the size of Camanche would be proud of. It's a lighthouse theme, but we were intrigued with the spelling, "Lite".

Short stop in Follets at the General Store, named B.S. Do not know why. Then another stop at a picnic table over-looking the river in Princeton. As we passed the home of Bruce and Linda Haugen, just north of LeClaire, we succeeded in finding them at home for the first time in several attempts. Bruce makes every RAGBRAI, and also was on the Offenburger Coast to Coast Iowa Sesquicentennial in 1995. Told us the most interesting dog story we had ever heard. Too long to repeat. Ask us sometime.

The last 12 miles were uneventful, and we arrived home by 5:30. Finished 2 rolls of film, had clear weather and always feel a satisfaction concluding portal to portal. Just us and our 2 bikes.

Would recommend this to anyone except hard riders. It's only 55 miles on day 1, and 75 on day 2. Would, however, say it was indeed enjoyable and memorable.



**Kaye & Carter
LeBeau enjoy a
stop at the Lite
House in
Camanche,
Iowa**

**Annual Dinner
November 8th
The Abbey in Bettendorf**



Kaye & Carter LeBeau enjoy a toast at their beautifully decorated table. Dodie Robers, Jan Reynolds and Dottie Willets decorated the tables in a “harvest theme”.

Bill Wundrum, long time columnist for the Quad City Times newspaper, entertained us all with a lively presentation on local QC Area sites and restaurants.



Darlene Moritz welcomes members at the registration table.

The January issue will feature the list of Award Recipients and a write-up on this GREAT annual tradition of the Quad Cities Bicycle Club! Digital photos on this page are courtesy of Bill and Jan Allen.

**Thomson Campout
Dave Alftine**

Thanks to all who participated in the Thomson Campout2 on Saturday/Sunday October 19/20, 2002.

Despite below average temperatures for October, most of the campers were warm and cozy. Ginny (my wife) and I used four sleeping bags. Five would have been too many. On the other hand, Sue Wolf forgot her air mattress and reported a less than comfortable night.

We had one misfortune however. Bruce Perry joined us for the ride to Thomson. It was his intention to return to his home in Port Byron that afternoon. But some idiot had placed a speed bump across the road onto the island, presumably in the name of safety. Talk about unintended consequences: Bruce hit the bump, and everything flew! Fortunately, Bob Milligan had ridden to Thompson, and his wife had brought their van for the return to Rock Island. They took Bruce to a hospital where pins were inserted into his fractured hip. I keep wondering when I'm going to have to write a similar report on the center posts, which obstruct the Illinois bike path.

Since the event occurs on a date so close to Halloween, we were again entertained by trick-or-treaters. Barb Donald found a wolf-man and gave him candy, but he didn't stay.

Since Jan Fitzgerald forgot the tent, she and Bob had to overnight in the local motel, but Bob had apparently made himself sick telling jokes around the campfire. He awoke Sunday morning with a fever, and Jan drove him home to Moline around 4:30 AM. I think she reported temps in the 20's.

Doug Daniels rode up from Fulton, and when he saw all the fun we were having, he rode back to Fulton and returned with camping gear on his bob-trailer to spend the night.

Dick Morrill and Merle Schleusener invited Mr. Walker and Capt. Morgan to entertain us and keep away the chill. They provided a lot of laughs, but I think Mr. Walker would be better named Mr. Stumbler.

Bob and Stacey Replinger towed a bugger all the way from Rock Island. Upon arrival, out popped the cutest little girl. Her name is Zoe.

There was some kind of issue about Jean Kelly and a whoopee cushion. I never really got it. Barb Donald provided a 55-gallon can of beans, which bubbled on the fireplace grate, and somehow got eaten.

Jean Roeder and Judy Gulley rode up on bikes, returned home, and then showed up again with more firewood and their gourmet cookout.

Sue Wolf was busy early on Saturday so she drove up in her van. She said there was a SIGN of firewood on the road near Cordova, and brought along a sample. Roger Horst, who had biked to Thomson, drove her van back to Rock Island, took his vehicle to Muscatine, and rode his bike back to join us on Sunday.

Rick Meeker biked up on Saturday, and his wife, Pat was kind enough to bring their van with Rick's warm clothes and the consumables, firewood, charcoal, and beer. They drove home later Saturday evening.

Steve and Nancy Montgomery biked both days, and were among the fourteen campers. They are very strong riders, and I'm hoping we'll see a lot more of them.

Although the campground was very busy, we were the only occupants of the tenting area. There was plenty more room for you, and we hope to see you there for Thomson Campout3.

Thanks to Bob Fitzgerald for the use of his van to carry our gear and to Ginny Alftine for driving it

**Winter Hiking During January & February
Kathy Storm**

If you are interested in coordinating a winter hike on a Saturday or Sunday during January or February, please contact me so I can put it in the newsletter. (563) 355-2564 or kbstorm@aol.com. Cy Galley can also list it on the web site as well.



Vern Gielow: a Determined Path Lover

Chuck Oestreich

One thing about him is absolutely clear: he loved paths. This beside the fact that he never used them. He didn't bike; he didn't run; and he hardly walked. Vern Gielow was an enigma.

Why did he devote so much of the latter stage of his life to the development of recreational paths? As you undoubtedly know, this man, who passed away recently, was the father of the Great River Trail, working for 16 years to convince sometimes very reluctant communities to build the various links that now join together this soon-to-be 60 mile-long path.

Why did he do it? I don't know. All I do know is that he was totally committed - and convincing.

I didn't believe him the first time I heard him. It was at a QCBC meeting more than ten years ago where he put on a program about the trail building going on around Fulton, Illinois. He, a dead ringer for Buster Keaton but with a classical radio voice and vocabulary, boldly stated something like this: "Mark my word: there will be a recreation path from Rock Island to Fulton. It will be done - maybe

five years, maybe ten years, but it will be done. There will be a path."

I snickered behind my inexpressive face, not believing him.

But it's done. (Well, almost. There still is that bridge into Savanna.) And in the intervening years as I got to know Vern, my skepticism vanished in the face of his steady, unrelenting determination to build his path, and also to see it linked to the Grand Illinois Trail, of which he was also a great pusher.

But his great love was for the Great River Trail -- nurtured by him, cared for by him, and named by him.

In my mind Vern and the trail will be forever linked. I'll say "the Great River Trail," when I talk about it, but hidden away in that familiar name will be "the Vern Gielow River Trail."

To me, that's a part of his legacy of love and determination.

Editor's Note: Vern had attended the past 2 QCBC Annual Dinners as an honored guest. In 2000, he was our guest speaker. He died on October 30, 2002.

RAGBRAI 2003

Perm & Andy Horst

Can you believe it?!?!? RAGBRAI XXXI is only eight months away.

Returning as organizers for this year's ride are Andy and Perm Horst and assisting them will be Anne Fleischman as Secretary.

We would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make RAGBRAI XXX successful and look forward to supplying the same for RAGBRAI XXXI.

The ride will be July 20 through 26, 2003, on a route to be announced in late February. Watch for the registration application and the Register's release form in the January and February issues of *Pedalwheeling*.

The deadline for returning your registration and release forms will be February 15, 2003. Cost for the wristbands in the past has been \$100.00. It was still undecided at the October Safety meeting for RAGBRAI if they would be able to hold that cost.

If you are not a member of the QCBC by the end of December 2002, you will need to put your name in the Des Moines Register lottery. If they select you, we should have space available to transport your bike and luggage.

Please do not request wristbands from more than one source. The Des Moines Register does a computer check and will not issue any passes to you if you are found requesting a wristband from multiple sources. Also, the bike club gets penalized.

If you would like to have your annual mileage listed in the January newsletter, please submit your total mileage for 2002 to Jim Merritt by December 7th. Please include your name, telephone number and your annual mileage ridden in 2002. For those of you who turned your mileage in at the Annual Diner on November 8th, contact Jim if that figure has changed. The deadline is December 7th!!!! Jim Merritt, 524 W. Prairie Vista Dr., Eldridge, IA 52748. (563) 285-4284 or jim@revealed.net.

**Bicycle Tour of Colorado . . .Or....
I Left my Knees on Top of Slumgullion Pass
Judie Gulley**

In September of 2001, when Darlene Moritz talked about getting a group together to ride the Bicycle Tour of Colorado, July 21-27, 2002, I said "You bet!" After 14 trips across Iowa, RAGBRAI was getting old and I decided if I was going to put my body through all that torture anyway, at least the morning view would be mountains instead of cornfields.

Dave LeFever, Barb Donald, Jean Roeder, and Dan Callarman, our riding buddy from Florida, all agreed.

With a few bikes strapped to the back, we all fit into Dave's TOGIR van, and arrived in Gunnison, the beginning city on Saturday, July 20th. We camped that night on the Western States College campus, where my nephew, Mike Simons, goes to school. I spent the whole evening trying to figure out how I could be 18 again and go to college there. Neat place.

Sunday: There was no dawn at 4:45 am, but we were up anyway, packing up tents with 1600 other riders and heading out into the darkness. At daylight, we rode past the east end of Blue Mesa Reservoir, one of the most beautiful areas in all of Colorado, and turned south toward our host town, Creede. It was at about 69 miles we encountered Slumgullion Pass. What had my brother-in-law from Pueblo said about Slumgullion? Oh yeah. "They won't route you up Slumgullion Pass - it's way to steep for bikes!"

11,300 feet of 7% grade made for a tough day that wound up being 105 miles with 8,000 feet of elevation gain. We all made it - some of us in the sag wagon, some with lots of walking in-between start and finish.

Creede was tucked into a narrow canyon with sheer rock walls. We ate supper that night and breakfast the next morning at the end of the canyon in a labyrinth of caves that housed the fire department and other town facilities.

Monday: A 64-mile day. We tackled major road construction on Wolfe Creek Pass on our way to Pagosa Springs. It's a touristy place, filled with natural hot springs and pools. The weather was cloudy and cool but the rain held off until meal time. We ate in a steady drizzle. We met up there with QCBC members, John and Eileen Wosoba. Eileen rode with us the next day into Durango, while John towed their motorcycle behind their van.

Tuesday: The 60 mile trip to Durango was the scariest part for me. The day was bright and sunny, the scenery fantastic, as usual, but it was hard to enjoy it with the heavy traffic. Although we were accompanied by 6 Colorado Highway Patrol guys on motorcycles, some of the road was narrow and no one slowed down. The last hill up to the Fort Lewis College high on the buff overlooking Durango was a killer, but worth every bit of the blood and sweat. John and Eileen left us there.

Wednesday: was a free day. Barb rode the historic steam train to Silverton, Darlene explored around town, Dave rode his bike, and Dan, Jean and I took a jeep trip from Silverton over Bear Creek Pass to Telluride and back over Ophir Pass. All the thrills and chills of a scary theme park ride. I feel sorry for anyone who doesn't have the opportunity to see that area of the Rockies. You snap picture after picture and can't capture even a tiny essence of the raw, awesome, heart-stopping beauty.

Thursday: We pedaled to Silverton, along the Million Dollar Highway, climbing Coal Bank and Molas Passes, racing the steam train as it chugged past in the canyon below. The day turned cool and rainy and at the top of Red Mountain Pass before we started down to Ouray, we found the road ahead was covered with mudslides, some over four feet high. We waited in the rain until crews cleared the highway enough for the bikes to get through, then roared downhill to Ouray, cold, soaking wet and covered with mud. 74 miles total. This is some of the most awesome scenery in the whole state. I'm just glad I'd seen it once before. (The day's problems even made CNN news.)

After a hot shower in the shower wagon which accompanied the ride, we were almost human again but the evening was too cold and rainy to explore .

Friday: was bright and warm as we pedaled to Montrose. The day was only 37 miles, fairly flat - as Colorado goes - and we had a great tailwind. We had time to dry everything out, down a pitcher of margaritas, meet some of the townsfolk, and see Men in Black II.

(cont. on page 11)

Bicycle tour of Colorado . . .Or....

(cont. from page 10)

Saturday: We had three long climbs, went past the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, and along Blue Mesa Reservoir - where I'd like to go back and spend more time - and after 66 miles, we arrived back in Gunnison at 4 and headed for home.

Observations: Bar none- this is the toughest ride I've ever done. However, I'd do it again in a heartbeat, this time with a triple. The scenery is

awesome, of course. How can the Colorado Rockies be anything else? The food is outstanding. The sag stops are every 15-20 miles all week and have the best stuff I've ever eaten. Showers are always hot and never a huge line. Campgrounds were quiet and in great places. And did I mention the scenery was awesome?



Pictured in Photo (L to R):

**Dave Lefever,
Barb Donald,
Jean Roeder,
Darlene Moritz
and Judie Gulley.**

**Photo Courtesy of
Darlene Moritz**

Winter Picnic – January 19th

Kathy Doyle

FOOD FELLOWSHIP PRIZES

Winter "SNOWTIME FOR A PICNIC" but we're having one anyway!

If the January blahs have got you down, here's the remedy. Join us for the annual QCBC winter potluck on Sunday, January 19th at noon. Please note the new location.

Carriage House
Deere-Wiman House
817 11th Ave.
Moline, Il.

Bring your favorite dish. We'll provide the rest.

Call Kathy Doyle (309) 755-7495 for reservations by Jan. 15.

Going, Going Gone!!

QCBC Jersey Update

Kathy Storm

It was 2 years ago at the Annual Dinner that a survey was taken in regard to whether the QCBC should develop a new jersey. The response was "Yes". A committee was formed in January 2001, sample colors and sizes were evaluated and the order was placed in May 2001. By late June, 154 jerseys (short sleeve and sleeveless) and 15 wind vests had arrived in the QC Area and members were going crazy over them.

16 months later, we have just 8 jerseys and 3 wind vests left. The remaining inventory is as follows: short sleeve jerseys (6 Men's Medium and 2 Women's Large) and wind vests (2 Large and 1

2XL). If you would like to purchase one of these pieces, please contact Kathy Storm at: (563) 355-2564. The jerseys are \$53.50 and the wind vests are \$46.00. A sketch of them can be viewed on the web site at: qcbc.org

There are no plans to reorder this current design from Voler since our price protection ran out in May 2002. To reorder the current design would require a minimum order of 25 pieces at a rate \$18.00 higher than our initial order of 100+ pieces.

In another year or two, the QCBC Board may decide there is enough interest to come up with a new design and place a new order with a jersey company. If you have some suggestions, on design, color or style, please mention those ideas to one of the Board Members for 2003.

**Thinking of: Cleaning out the basement, attic or garage?
How about new shingles on the roof or garage? Call . . .**

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20 yr. QCBC Member

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QCBC Members

Great looking, aesthetically pleasing containers!

**Want Ads Column (Ads run for 2 months)
Check Web Site (qcbc.org) for Additional Items
QCBC Members**

FOR SALE:

- 1997 Red Cannondale MT800 Tandem. Excellent condition. Extras. New \$2095; asking \$1500. Mike Johnson (563) 391-8171 or mikedana2@mchsi.com
- 2002 Blue Bike E Tandem. Excellent condition. Extras. New \$2495; asking \$1800. Mike Johnson (563) 391-8171 or mikedana2@mchsi.com

- Blackburn Trainer. 8 years old, used 1 winter. \$50 or best offer. Father Maynard Brothersen (563) 324-9078 or SKIMJB@webtv.net

WANTED:

- Brake levers for road bike, 44cm handlebars, bar-end shifters, tubular tires, helmet-mounted light. Scott Swanson, (563)508-8958 or sswanson@eiccd.cc.ia.us
- Racks and panniers for road bike. Steve Peterson (563) 355-4273

**October 2002 Night Rides
Kathy Storm**

On Friday, November 1st, the local meteorologist reported that October 2002 was the 7th coldest on record in the past 150 years. That was my confirmation that I had indeed needed all those warm clothes I wore on the few nights that I rode during October this year.

This year's participants included: Dave Alftine, Jeff Cosad, Barb Donald, Tom Fitch, Anne Fleischman, Lynne Groskurth, Roger Horst, Gary Jones, Todd Kempf, Jerry Kruse, Linda Lueders, Jim Merritt, Steve & Nancy Montgomery, Darlene Moritz, Dick Morrill, Jerry Neff Jr, Warren Power, Judy Starevich, Bill & Kathy Storm, Scott Swanson, John Wessel, Susie Wolf and Mike Zugmaier. Dave, Susie and Scott were 1st time Night Riders. Susie was also our first recumbent night rider.

In spite of some cold and wet nights, we still averaged 7 riders each night that we rode. Scott was so determined to ride every ride when he began

joining us the second week in October that he rode in the rain one night by himself. Afterwards, he called to let me know he had done so. I had to explain to him that the tall tales he had heard from Jim Merrit about getting some big award at the Annual Dinner for attending every night ride were a fabrication.

On October 31st, 11 of us rode on a very chilly Halloween night. 3 more QCBC members (Sheri Power, Judy Starcevich and John Wessel) and one guest joined us at Pat McGuire's afterwards for a well-deserved dinner. The "guest", Tim Hellyer, turned out to be the son of a teacher I taught next door to years ago in DeWitt. Small world.

Look for these rides to return again next year. Hopefully the nice warm nights that October usually offers will return as well. For the 1st time in the club's history, we will have Night Rides in Illinois in November along the Great River Trail. More on these rides in the next newsletter.

**Final 2002 Adopt a Highway Pickup
Kathy Storm**

On Wednesday, September 25, 13 dedicated "Trash Kings and Queens" showed up for the final 2002 pickup. We worked quickly and filled up a good 10 bags and then headed off for pizza at Wise Guys.

Helping with this community activity were: Tammy & Tom Bolton, Cy Galley, Jean Kelly,

Darlene Moritz, Karen Nord, Kentley Lowenstein, Phil Schube, Scott Schaar, Warren & Shari Power, Kathy & Bill Storm.

Thank you to everyone who has helped on these pickups during 2002. I hope you'll help out again in 2003! And a special thanks to Jim Carey who drove all the way from Clinton to help with the pickup on July 15th. The two of us picked up about half the route by ourselves on a hot sultry July evening.

2003 Tandem Rally
Reprinted from the Newsletter of the
Prairie Bicycle Club – Champaign-Urbana
Carl Prose

CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) is reviving the Prairie Sate Tandem Rally in 2003. The rally will be held June 20 – 22 in Sycamore, IL

Current plans call for an ice cream ride on that Friday, followed by Saturday rides of 25 to 70 miles and a Sunday breakfast rid. There will be a Saturday evening BBQ dinner in the park.

Details can be found on the Internet at: pages.prodigy.net/waterstreet/CATS/index.htm. Or you may contact: E-mail tandems@prodigy.net or call Sam Waterstreet at 630-556-3182.

We are looking forward to hosting this rally and hope that some of the other bicycling clubs in the state will continue the rally in succeeding years.

In any case we hope the 2003 Prairie State Rally will be something the tandem members of your club will enjoy.

