



Pedalwheeling

The Newsletter of the Quad Cities Bicycle Club – April 2003

FORC/QCBC Spring Picnic
Sunday, April 13th
Karen Nord, Chairperson

Upcoming events include the FORC/QCBC spring picnic at Loud Thunder Park. The picnic will be in the pavilion by the ranger's house, the same one as last year. This is on Sunday, April 13th at noon. Bring a dish to pass (with food in it that's ready to eat) and your old "stuff" to sell to other FORC and QCBC members.

The clubs will be providing hamburgers, brats, hot

dogs, veggie burgers (from Chief Mayne and Wren), pop, hot coffee and hot chocolate.



There are 2 club rides starting from Loud Thunder as well prior to the picnic. A Fast Paced and a MidPaced ride will start at 9am from the Horse Corral. Plans are to do a loop on the county roads and be back at the pavilion for the picnic around 11:30 – Noon. Bring dry clothes to change into after the ride.

For information or directions to the Spring Picnic, contact Karen Nord at: (563) 326-9113 or

dalispash@mchsi.com

General Meeting - April 15th
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Rvermont Collegiate, Bettendorf
Errol McCollum, Vice President

Since the Quad Cities Bicycle Club is the sponsor of the DICE bicycle racing team and the cyclocross race coming soon, Karen Nord thought that it might be a good subject for a QCBC general meeting. Bruce Grell from Healthy Habits and his friend Scott Schaar will tell

a little about the racing team and the area's first cyclocross race.

Cyclocross although not real common here in the US, is a thriving sport in Europe that evolved from bike racers wanting to train during the winter. Similar to, but not the same as mountain bike racing, this sport is done on bikes that are a cross between racing bikes, touring bikes and mountain bikes. These bikes were the inspiration for the present cross or hybrid bikes one sees in bicycle shops today.

Community Service Project – April 21st
Iowa Adopt a Highway Trash Pickup
Bill & Kathy Storm, Organizers

On Monday, April 21st, the QCBC will begin its 12th year of maintaining the same 2 mile stretch of highway in Scott County. Please join other QCBC members as we spend 60 – 90 minutes picking up trash that has accumulated there during the winter.

We are one of the few organizations in the QC Area

that has had the same stretch of highway for this Trash Pickup program for 10+ years.

Meet at 5:30pm at the parking lot by the entrance to the soccer fields along old Highway 61 (Scott Park Rd.) in Davenport, just north of the John Deere plant. Wear some old work clothes and sturdy boots, as we will be roaming the ditches for trash.

The other 2003 Trash Pickup Dates are: July 14 and September 24.

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 (309) 797-3790	Joe Jamison (309) 755-6801	Jean Kelly (563) 359-9508
Dave Lefever (563) 355-6476	Deb Mathias (309) 787-6547	Karen Nord (563) 326-9113
Tim Phlypo (309) 944-2649	Charlie Sattler (563) 391-3422	Bill Wiebel (309) 755-1859

Key Contacts: A complete listing of Committee Chairperson and Key Contacts is available on the club’s web site and in the front of the hard copy Ride Schedule booklet.

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 Errol McCollum for program information.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter: Deadline is the 10th of the month. Email to: qbceditor@yahoo.com or send to: Kathy Storm, ATTN: QCBC Newsletter, 2708 Elm Street, Davenport, IA 52803. Free Want Ads are available for members. Commercial ads are available at the following rates: ¼ page - \$25, ½ page \$50 and a full page \$100.

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: 12 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 Heartland Century registration fees.

Affiliated With:



www.bikeleague.org



www.bikeLIB.org

Membership Count: 3/11/03

	# of Members	# of Memberships
Individual	426	426
Couple	272	136
Family	399	107
Complimentary	9	9
Life	6	3
Total	1,112	681

From the Headset
Warren Power, President

HELP WANTED

Like all non-profit organizations, the Quad Cities Bicycle Club depends on volunteers. Sometimes we ask for a commitment of a few hours, sometimes a few days and sometimes for a year or more.

The longer commitments are usually for our major activities chairpersons, such as TOMRV and RAGBRAI, or in an administrative position such as the Board of Directors, Newsletter Editor, or Membership Chairperson.

Usually our members stay in these positions for at least one year and many stay in a position for many years, but every now and then we are faced with the reality of having to fill a position with a new volunteer. This is the situation we face now.

We are currently looking for volunteers to take over the positions of Treasurer, Membership Chairperson and RAGBRAI Secretary.

The **Treasurer** is an elected position. The Treasurer handles all of the monetary activities for the club. This included paying all bills, preparing financial statements for the monthly board meetings and working with an accounting firm to file all necessary tax returns. You don't need to be an accountant, but some background in book keeping would be helpful.

We're currently using Microsoft Money to do our accounting and Microsoft Excel to prepare some of the reports. The new treasurer will take over in December.

The **Membership Chairperson** maintains all of the

membership information of the club. The job includes processing all applications for membership (new and renewal), sending out membership expiration notices, providing mailing labels as required, providing membership information to the newsletter editor for incorporation into the newsletter and providing other membership reports as requested.

Membership records are kept using Microsoft Access. The current Membership Chairperson has asked to be replaced by August.

The **RAGBRAI Secretary** handles all of the contacts for RAGBRAI. The main responsibilities include processing rider applications, being the main club contact for rider questions prior to RAGBRAI, being the contact for the Des Moines Register, preparing and mailing the club application to the Register and preparing the packets and checking in riders during bicycle loading the Friday prior to RAGBRAI.

The bulk of the work in this position is done in January, February, June and July. The current RAGBRAI Secretary has asked to be replaced following this years RAGBRAI, which is August.

Persons holding these positions receive a small stipend. The club will also provide the software required for the position if you do not already have it on your computer. (We might also be able to provide a computer if you don't have one)

These positions are critical to the ongoing operation of our club. If you think you might be interested in filling one of these positions or if you know of someone in the club who you think might be interested, please contact me

Tour of the Islands
Feb 23, 2003
Jerry Kruse, Ride Organizer

On a sunny yet very cold and windy Sunday morning, 18 hardy riders took a break from their regular winter bike riding and joined in the "tropical" atmosphere to visit the islands of the Mississippi River here in the Quad Cities.

You could feel the excitement in the air, or was it the windchill, as the riders waited to get "lei'd" and start

the fun ride along the river bike paths. The temperature rose and the wind dropped during the ride and the riders even got to try out the new ramp off the Government Bridge as they headed to the feed stop at the Village of East Davenport.

Riders included, Joe VanHoutte, Darlene Moritz, Barb Donald, Jan and Bob Fitzgerald, Dick Morrill, Mary Brus, Jim Keyoth, Gary Hartzler, Susan Wolf, Fred Krack, Karen Nord, Mike Smith, Gary Jones, Diane and Chuck Oestreich, David Round and John Wessell.

Welcome New QCBC Members!
Anne Fleischmann, Membership Coordinator

Name	City & State	Phone	Name	City & State	Phone
Sherry & Denny Ayers	Hampton, IL	309-752-1943	Leslie James-Cook	Monmouth, IL	309-221-9648
David & Irene Bender	Bettendorf, IA	563-332-8213	Nathan Meier	Davenport, IA	563-355-8219
Steve Bost	Milan, IL	309-787-2868	Sarah Nuett	Rock Island, IL	
Jack Cones	Colona, IL	309-792-0624	Steve Rost	Milan, IL	309-787-2868
James & Susan Dayton	Colona, IL	309-949-2140	Bill & Mary Scott	Rock Island, IL	

QCBC Balltown Classic – June 28
Wayne Hanno

Join us for the QCBC's second annual Balltown Classic Double Century at 5:00am on Saturday, June 28th. Starting location is at the city park in Dewitt, Iowa at the corner of 6th Avenue and 11th Street just under the landmark water tower.

The double century route generally heads north from Dewitt with the turnaround point in scenic Balltown, Iowa. The magnificent Balltown scenery with breathtaking views of the mighty Mississippi River Valley has been featured in a variety of magazines and newspapers.

Balltown is home to Breitbach's, Iowa's oldest bar and restaurant, which was established back in 1852 by a federal permit issued from President Millard Fillmore.

An early start assures everyone ample opportunity to complete the 200-mile ride in daylight since there will be almost 16 hours of fabulous Iowa sunshine.

Contact Rick Meredith for additional information or to register for the Balltown Classic at (563) 355-0185 or Ram1747@aol.com. Complete details will also be available at www.big-dogs.org in the very near future. See you there!

Leisure & MidPaced Rides for 2003
Susie Wolf & Kathy Storm, Chairpersons

Many of our members have enjoyed the Leisure Rides the past 12+ years. These are great rides for anyone in our club to ride that wants to ride at a leisurely pace (an average of 10-13 mph while riding).

These are also the rides that many of our new members start out with as these rides feature Ride Leaders, a designated route and many long time club members as participants.

New in 2003, will be a summer picnic ride on Saturday, August 2nd. This will replace the Season Finale picnic ride previously held in late September. Susie has a great line up food planned for this event.

The MidPaced rides are designed for riders who feel comfortable riding at a faster pace than the Leisure group but not as fast as the Fast Riders group. The

MidPaced Riders typically ride an average pace of 13 – 16 mph during the ride.

This group will have rides every Saturday and Sunday from April through October. Many of these rides will have a designated Ride Leader and established route. Some of the rides will be of a "Rider's Choice" variety offering the opportunity for the riders who show up to determine the route.

On October 11th, the 3rd annual Chili Lunch in the Park ride will take place. Kathy will again cook her "crock pot chili".

A new feature for both of these "picnic" rides is that the price to you, as a member, has been reduced to just \$4. The club will be offsetting the extra \$3-\$4 in cost per person for the food and park shelter rental.

For information contact:

- Leisure Rides – Susie Wolf, 309-269-5183
- MidPaced Rides – Kathy Storm, 563-355-2564

The Great Carroll County Cycling Event!

June 21, 2003

John H. McConnel Jr.

The Newly formed Carroll County Cycle Club is planning a cycling race and tour event June 21st. The event will include an all day festival. The starting location will be in the Pamida parking lot in Savanna, IL.

The Event will be divided into two separate choices. Participants may enter the 60-mile competitive race for a chance to win the overall 1st place trophy and \$500. Or, participants may enter the pleasure tour along the same route as the race, which takes riders through the scenic hill country of Carroll County. There will be complimentary fruit and water stands every 15 miles and volunteers to help make the event fun, safe, and memorable.

The all day festival will include about six hours of live music from two bands, a DJ at other times, The Kalamity Klowns and Karacters Klub which will provide their popular Klown Buggy, face and body painting, balloon sculptures, four games and more. Nationally renowned trials demo rider Aaron Lutze will be showing off his amazing bike trick feats.

There will also be bicycle experts from Diamond Back Bikes, Continental Tires and Sigma Sport. The Savanna Police Department will be offering several Bike Safety Classes and a bike rodeo, complete with official certification for successful

graduates.

The Savanna Fire Department will be providing a pasta dinner and there will be food vendors such as Café Blue at the event site and in some towns along the cycling route.

The cycling race will have a large (five foot) trophy and \$500 grand prize for the overall winner, and smaller trophies and plaques for 1st and 2nd place winners by age group and gender. All participants will receive a free Great Carroll County Cycling Event T-shirt.

The primary sponsor of this event is the Carroll County CEDS (economic development group) who will also provide the 'host' for this exciting event and help raise the 60 or so volunteers this event will need, as well as, help organize local communities along the tour route to participate with food vendors, drawings, and more, as the tour riders go through each town.

CEDS will help this become a county wide event that will help bring new friends into Carroll County. They will also help organize the Host-a-Cyclist program where locals may house a cyclist Friday night before the race. Other sponsors include The Savanna City Council, Super 8 Motel of Savanna, Piper Chevrolet of Mt. Carroll, Arnold's Bike Shop, Coca Cola Company, and a myriad of others.

For additional information, contact the Carroll County Cycle Club's web site at: www.cc-cycling.org. Or email us at: Stonley20@lcqmail.com or call us at Arnold's Bike Shop, (815) 273-7789.

TOMRV 26 – Registration Update

Kathy Storm & Linda Barchman

As of March 10th, we have received 450 registrations. 37% of these have been from online registrations and 67% from the traditional hard copy ones.

The Apartment Suites at Clarke College sold out within the first week, a new record for TOMRV. And the Apartment Suites at Loras are 60% sold out by mid March. There are many other housing options still available like dorm rooms, camping and numerous hotels in the Dubuque area.

If you have signed up for TOMRV 26, thank-you! If you have not signed up for TOMRV, there is still

time to do so. You may sign up online at www.active.com, download a registration form from the club's web site at www.qcbc.org or use the hard copy form that was mailed to all QCBC members and past TOMRV participants in February.

If you have questions about registration, please contact Linda Barchman at (563) 388-8043 or lindabarchman@hotmail.com.

TOMRV is a great ride along the Mississippi River Valley in early June. If you are unable or don't want to ride it this year, we'd love to have you help as a volunteer. To find out about volunteer opportunities, contact Susie Laforce at (563) 355-5530 or susielaforce@hotmail.com.

**RAGBRAI 2003 – Update Information
Andy & Perm Horst, Chairpersons**

All of the registration forms from the QCBC have been sent in to the Des Moines Register for RAGBRAI 2003. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, July 18th for packet pick up and bike loading.

If you would like to be put on a waiting list in case of cancellations, please fill out the application form, release of liability and mail it to us. We will notify you of any openings.

If you have any RAGBRAI questions call Anne Flesichman, RAGBRAI Secretary, at (563) 332-4212 or e-mail fleischmana@netzero.net. If it is a long distance call and a return is needed, she will call you back collect. We will again be boarding buses at Northgate Mall (Kimberly Rd/US 6 and Eastern Ave) in Davenport on the South West Corner behind Kaplan College.

If you receive your tags through the Register, we have some room on our buses going out and on the return. If you do not have the Register's RAGBRAI tags, we cannot sell bus seating.

Please let the club know if there is something that you would like us to consider providing during this years ride. Send info to the attention of the RAGBRAI

committee.

There will be no confirmation cards sent out. We will mail the RAGBRAI tag numbers when received from the Register. Do not write to towns for overnight housing until you receive the tags.

RAGBRAI tidbits: The Register's profits are given away to the Iowa communities, including proceeds from all sales. Leave your vehicles at home since this is a bike ride. Many bikes are stolen each year; it is not sufficient to just lock two bikes together. They pick up both bikes and carry them off.

Safety tips: Call out when pulling off the road. Do not stop on the road. Call out when pulling back into traffic. Don't cross the center yellow line. Don't draft, most riders are inexperienced. Sound off for railroad tracks, potholes, loose gravel, and other unsafe conditions. Don't sound off for rumble strips (riders end up crossing the center line or running into other riders).

Wear a helmet and use a bike mirror. Please do not be one of the riders ticketed for a traffic violation, otherwise plan on bringing at least \$100 for each citation. If you leave the ride early and will not take the return bus back, please sign the list on the inside of the baggage truck to let us know.

**Update on Stolen “Bareback” Bike
Kathy Storm**

Dean Mathias found his beloved Bareback bike a few weeks ago. It had been stripped of its wheels and accessories, but the frame seemed in good shape.

Dean was riding Deb's bike to and from work and

decided to take a different route home through the heart of the west end of Rock Island.

Two teenagers recognized him as “The Teacher Who Rides to Work” and lead him to where they had seen his bike. The two boys split the \$100 reward that Dean had offered.

**QC Area Bridge Construction
Karen Nord & Kathy Storm**

The Centennial Bridge between downtown Rock Island and Davenport will be undergoing some construction projects throughout 2003. The sidewalk that bicyclists have traditionally been asked to use, is now closed.

Bicyclists can use the regular right hand lane of traffic

to cross the bridge and typically have not had to pay the \$0.50 toll.

A better option to cross the Mississippi River in this area might be to use the new ramp from the Riverfront Trail up to the government crossing Arsenal Island.

If anyone has suggestions/updates on how to cross the Mississippi River (on a bike) , please send to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Ride Schedule 2003 - 2004

Bill Wiebel, Ride Schedule Chairperson

You should have recently received the 2003 – 2004 Ride Schedule and Membership Directory. The Ride Schedule Committee hopes that you find the booklet to be useful throughout the upcoming year. Be sure to take a few minutes and go through it. Even though the contents seem about the same as previous years, there are a few changes and improvements.

A New Look

How about the new cover! Thanks to Jim Merritt and his artistic ability the cover was given a facelift. How about the readability! Our new Editor, Bob Replinger, used his editing abilities to improve the readability. Be sure to note the addition of spacing and that the flow is more readable.

Content

The content is pretty much the same as previous years. The QCBC will continue to offer rides for all members. There will be rides each Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday and also on Tuesday and Thursday during the warmer months and in October and November for the night rides. A vast number of weekend rides are again being offered from April through October. Again this year, we will offer three classes of rides: Leisure, Mid Paced and Fast Paced.

New For 2003

- Three out of town rides are being offered. They are:
 - Chicago Lakefront Ride on June 28, which starts in Evanston, IL.

- John Karras Memorial Ride on July 6, which starts in Marengo, IA
- Cedar Valley Tour on July 12 & 13, which starts in Hiawatha, IA.
- 40K Time Trial is being offered on July 27
- QCBC Populaire will replace the Century Day. See Ride Schedule for details.
- Leisure and Mid Paced picnics are listed in the QCBC Special Events. Be sure to note the dates on your calendars.
- Family Rides - Four family rides are being offered. This is a great opportunity to get your significant other, or your children, out on their bicycles to discover this great activity.

Thank You

Thanks to the members of the ride schedule committee, and to a few others, that have worked hard to put together the booklet. They are: Mike Desch, Anne Fleischman, Jim Karr, Jerry Kruse, Joe Jamison, Jim Merritt, Karen Nord, Vivian Norton, Bob Replinger, Jan Reynolds, Kathy Storm, Bill Wiebel, and Sue Wolf. This group has done their best to assure that group-riding opportunities are available for all members.

We would also like to give thanks to the many ride leaders, event leaders, and all other volunteers that commit much time to the QCBC.

Finally

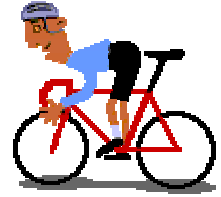
We are always open to new ideas, be sure to let us know your thoughts. We also, did our best to assure accuracy, but if you find any errors, or have ideas to improve the Ride Schedule and Membership Directory let us know.

Companions Wanted

Dave Lefever

- I'm interested in riding, DALMAC August 27-31, and would like a companion or companions for this tour. For particulars see www.biketcba.org. I have done this ride one time and really enjoyed the experience.
- I would also like to share transportation to and from the Great Arizona Bicycle Adventure, Sept. 27 - Oct. 4, See www.bikegaba.org. Several people from the QCBC have done this tour from the Grand Canyon to Old Mexico in years past and speak highly of this challenging ride. Dave Lefever , 563-355-6476.

Kick-In' Tailwind Escapade – May 17th
Tim Phlypo, Chairperson



Make plans to go with the wind and fly like a KITE! Spring Is coming and it is time for our annual tailwind ride.

The ride will take place on Saturday May 17th, 2003. Here is how it works. We will bicycle from one of four locations depending on which way the wind is blowing the morning of the ride. We will load everyone's bikes at one of two locations:

- 1.) Butterworth parking lot near Case New Holland if we are going East or South.
- 2.) Scott Community College if we are going West or North.

How will you know where to meet? That information will be on my answering machine after 6:30pm on Friday, May 16th. I will have alternate information on my machine if the weather is going to be extreme and the ride needs to be postponed to Sunday, May 18th.

Promptly at 6:00am our bus transportation will leave for an approximately two-hour ride into the wind. Around 8:00am everyone will leave the bus, unload their bikes and take off for a 100-mile ride with the wind at your back the whole way. (We hope) Be at the starting location at 5:30am to load bikes into the truck.

You might want to bring a blanket to protect your bike during transit. These will be waiting for you when you return back to the start. There will be a SAG with refreshments during the ride.

Fill out the form on this page; sign the waiver, and send it along with a check for \$20.00 made out to QCBC KITE Ride. Do it quickly because registration is limited. It'll be on a first come first serve bases, with postmarks determining the cut off.

My phone number is (309) 944-2649. Call me if you have any questions. And make sure to call on May 16th after 6:30pm to find out where to meet. Mail the form and fee to: Tim Phlypo, 729 South Center St., Geneseo, IL. 61254

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Here is my \$20.00. Please register me for KITE, the Kick-in' Tailwind Escapade of spring. In order to participate in KITE the following must be completed fully and signed in ink.

I, the undersigned, knowingly accept and fully understand the inherent risks involved in bicycle touring. I understand and agree that I must wear my helmet at all times while riding the KITE. In consideration of the Quad-Cities Bicycle Club, its directors, officers, employees, agents and participants who may be performing official functions for the ride, from any and all actions, claims, demands, administrative proceedings, judgments, or decrees, including attorney's fees, of any kind that may arise out of my participation in the KITE ride.

I also hereby consent to and authorize emergency medical treatment in case of injury. I understand that any medical costs will be my responsibility. I represent that my physical condition, as well as my equipment, is to the best of my knowledge adequate to allow me to safely participate in this tour event.

Participants Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Signature (if under 18) _____
Date _____

**The 2003 Quad Cities Criterium
Memorial Day: A Tribute to All Veterans!
Terry Burke, Race Director**

This article is being written in early March for the April issue of Pedalwheeling. Whatever happens in the next month with IRAQ is a big unknown, but on Memorial Day we will be honoring all veterans and presenting the first Quad Cities Criterium listed on the USCF National Racing Calendar! While not in the same league as the Philadelphia, New York City, or San Francisco downtown criteriums, we are now recognized as one of the top 33 one day events in the country.

The popular red, white, and blue from the past two years has been adopted as our permanent logo, but there will be a new design for 2003 criterium T-Shirts. The excellent Vietnam Veterans of America will be a repeat for Honor Guard.

QCBC Members who have become used to our Memorial Day program the past several years will be treated to some surprises in 2003. The largest changes are for the women and men's feature races.

The crowd in The District hits a peak from approximately 12:00 noon to 4:00pm, so we have scheduled the feature women's race to start at 1:00pm and the feature men's race to start at 2:30pm. This means the most number of spectators get to see the best races of the day! Being on the National Racing Calendar also brings in more pro teams, so the quality of competition becomes even greater.

Events popular in 2002 will be repeated in 2003. The Sunday nite street sprints have grown steadily since their inception 3 years ago, and we look for their growth to continue again this year. Other USCF race participants were reasonably happy in 2002, so the 2003 program for these races will be similar. By "reasonably happy" it is meant few competitors remarked about having to race with other category riders in the same race. Our packed nine-hour program, with the exception of the crowd-pleasing trike race, is now devoted to only USCF bicycle races.

QCBC was the trike race helmet sponsor in 2002. It

was a success for the 16 kids who wore the helmets, so the QCBC will again be providing helmets for 2003.

Other carryovers from 2002 are the BMX trick riders, the climbing wall, and a wide variety of food and vendor booths. Our 3 colorful announcers are back, as is our "No Mud no Blood Wheelpit."

The Memorial Day weekend starts with the Burlington Road Race on Friday, followed by the Burlington Snake Alley Criterium on Saturday, the Muscatine Melon City Criterium on Sunday and the QC Criterium on Monday. See www.MemorialDayWeekEndBikeRaces.com for entry information.

We certainly could not present the Quad Cities Criterium without the outstanding QCBC volunteers, who marshal corners and pedestrian walks, register riders, sell T-Shirts, staff the wheel pit and the QCBC Booth. In addition to a full day of entertainment, volunteers get an official Quad Cities Criterium T-Shirt, an invitation to the volunteer party, and two vendor coupons. Chairpersons to call or email are:

- **Corner Marshals** Bill & Cathy Wiebel
309-755-1859, billwiebel@aol.com
- **QCBC Booth** Dave Lefever
563-355-6476, bike@netexpress.net
- **Registration** Don Davis
309-788-0753, dondavis@aol.com
- **T- Shirt Sales** Scott Doup
563-322-4213, sdoup@home.com or
Dennis Baber, 309-796-2476,
xlpp@netzero.net.
- **Wheel Pit** Darryl Blackburn
563-332-2668, dablackburn@mchsi.com
Andy Nissen, 563-391-8596,
BikeGuyOne@msn.com
- **Prize Desk** Doug Nelson
563-359-3253, dougmai@aol.com

So remember to mark your calendar for a Memorial Day weekend to have some fun in The District in downtown Rock Island and remember the veterans who served in the past and support service men and women serving now.

GABA 2002 – the Great Arizona Bicycle Adventure (aka “The Grand Canyon to Mexico Almost Across Arizona Bicycle Tour”)

John Lamb

On Friday, September 27, QCBC members Mike Atkins, Bill and Tom Lovewell, Larry Hosford, Nancy and John Lamb along with Jim Lovewell of San Francisco, CA all headed to Phoenix, AZ to participate in the 22nd annual GABA. GABA is a seven-day, 500 mile, fully supported tour that begins in Tusayan, Arizona (on the south rim of Grand Canyon) and ends in Nogales (on the Mexican border). GABA provides a daily continental breakfast, 3 daily SAGs, baggage transportation, an evening banquet each day, AND a T-shirt and southwestern style riding socks. Early Saturday morning, we and other 85 other riders loaded our bikes into a semi and ourselves into two tour busses and were on our way to Tusayan.

Sunday: Oddly enough the first official day of the ride was a rest day. But as chance would have it, we were only 8 miles from one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, so we jumped on our bikes and rode up and had a look.

Grand Canyon defies description so I won't bother attempting one, but just seeing the Canyon is worth the trip whether you bring a bike or not. We spent a chilly, but thoroughly delightful day pedaling west along the south rim and taking in the spectacular sights. (Total: 30 miles - 933 ft gained)

Monday: The radio reported it was 42 degrees when we got up, but after we dressed, ate breakfast, and got ready to ride, there was still a lot of frost and ice around the motel! Nonetheless, we mounted up and headed back up to the Canyon. Today however, we rode east along the rim for roughly 20 miles to the Desert View entrance of the park. From there we turned south and, leaving the Canyon behind, began a long descent into Navaho country. The Canyon rim was heavily forested but after only a few miles we entered a stark and treeless landscape. We climbed a bit but mostly descended for nearly 40 miles. Along the way, we rode through the scenic high desert of northeastern Arizona. We were near the area of the large fires of last summer but did not ride through any burned

areas. We bought a few small Indian trinkets at the roadside stands that were common along the way. Their work was beautiful and we were tempted to buy more. But on further reflection, we realized that there really isn't any good way to carry a two-foot tall - Navaho vase on a bike. We spent the night in Gray Mountain. Gray Mountain = 1 motel + 1 gas station + 1 restaurant. (71 miles – 3,175 ft gained)

Tuesday: It was sunny but chilly as we headed up a long straight climb that would eventually lead us to Flagstaff. Ahead loomed Humphrey's Peak, at 12,663, the highest point in Arizona. Before long we found ourselves winding through the Wupatki National Monument. Here we hiked though some of Arizona's old Indian Ruins. Shortly after leaving the ruins a breeze kicked up – followed by a wind. We were headed uphill - the wind was headed downhill. It wasn't pretty. We ground our way up to Sunset Crater National Monument but our appreciation of the scenery was somewhat reduced by the relentless headwind. We finally topped out at 7100 ft and began back down into what was by then a 30 – 45 mph headwind. But eventually we made it to Flagstaff and the nicest overnight stop of the week: a great hotel and outstanding meal in a beautiful forested setting. (65 miles – 4,211 feet gained)

Wednesday: A day we'll remember but would like to forget. It started gloomy, overcast and 47 degrees and that was as good as it got. By the time Nan and I got to the first SAG at 25 miles we had changed 3 flats and were riding into a driving headwind through precipitation that alternated between rain, sleet, and hail. By then it was 42 degrees and falling. We had had enough. The best any of our little group of 7 could manage that day was the 2nd SAG at 56 miles. Of the 90+ riders on the tour, only 4 made the whole 94 miles to Payson. But of course there was the strawberry pie along the way at the little town of Strawberry

Thursday: A clear, crisp 36° morning greeted us for our ride to Miami. A big breakfast at Denny's and a cheerful hostess had us looking forward to a great day in the saddle. A few miles out of town we were treated to a beautiful 8-mile downhill ending at the tiny town of Rye. There, right along

Highway 87 was a most unusual sight – a 5-acre junkyard filled, not with cars, but only bicycles and motorcycles. Go figure! By the 50-mile mark we had descended nearly 3000 feet and had scarcely climbed at all. That was about to change. After riding along the shore of Roosevelt Lake for 20 miles the terrain took a turn for the vertical – a 5-½ mile climb that averaged 9% grade. I for one was pooped but proud when we reached the summit SAG. The final 15 miles into Miami were mostly downhill and much appreciated. (81 miles – 3,866 ft gained)

Friday: It was 49° but climbing out of Miami and through Globe had warmed us up by the time we reached the foot of El Capitan, a 9 mile 1,600 foot climb. But this climb had a great downside, a 25 mile 3,000 foot downside. We wound down the Gila River Canyon through old mining country till we reached the desert floor at the tiny town of Winkleman. This was prime saguaro cactus country. They were everywhere, lining the road and covering the hillsides. Shortly thereafter we began our last big climb of the ride, 1,800 feet over 10

miles to Oracle. From there it was 35 miles, mostly downhill, into the heart of Tucson. It was awards night and our little band, “The Posse”, cleaned up winning the categories of Best Sunburn, Most Flats, Best Bike, and the Grand Prize – Best Party Animals! (108 miles – 3,016 ft climbed)

Saturday: Our last day of riding started a sunny but cool 57°. The route was a continuous, but very gradual, climb up the Santa Cruze River Valley straight south to Nogales. We stopped at the restored San Xavier Mission then rode on to eat breakfast at the renowned “Pepe’s Tire Shop and Mexican Restaurant”. (I have pictures!) From there it was on through Green Valley, Tubac (great margaritas), Tumacacori, and finally Nogales. For our final banquet, we were entertained by an authentic Mexican mariachi band. (85 miles 2,386 ft gained)

Sunday: All that remained was a bus ride back to Phoenix and the return flight to Moline.

This was my second GABA. It’s an excellent ride featuring lots of good food, great support, challenging terrain,

fantastic scenery, and “variable” weather. Check it out on the web at: www.bikegaba.org.



Photo Above - Nancy Lamb and Saguaro Cactus

Photo on left: - (from left to right) - Bill Lovewell, Mike Atkins, John Lamb, Nancy Lamb, Larry Hosford, Tom Lovewell, and Jim Lovewell at the Grand Canyon. (Digital photos courtesy of John Lamb.)



What about that I-74 Bridge?
Chuck Oestreich, Advocacy Chairperson

It floats in space, suspended by scalloped threads of engineering beauty.

The I-74 Mississippi River Bridge from a distance - with its geometric precision of design - is classically spectacular. Moreover it welds us together. It connects not only our two extended riverside communities, but also our present to our past. And its stylized waves of steel, surging over inlets, islands, and the mighty river's main channel, both symbolize and reflect the waters beneath.

It's really too wonderful to lose - from a distance, that is. Up close, in actual use, it's another story. It's not doing its job. We overran it - swamped it with speed and numbers

So should we tear it down and built a new one? That's a question transportation planners, community groups, and motorists are mulling over right now. But from a bicyclist's point of view, the question is moot: whatever happens, a bike/ped facility has to be a given.

With one of the best riverfront trail systems in the nation, with two national trails converging and crisscrossing right here, with an emerging desire for recreation and healthy living, with a need to merge the two sides of our community together at a human level, with numerous bridges along the river being built with such facilities, with all of these, why there's just no question. We need to be able to cross the river on any new or reused bridge on a bike or on foot.

Let's not give in on this given!