



Pedalwheeling

Monthly Newsletter of the Quad Cities Bicycle Club — November 2008

Memorial for Fred Blessin, a Bicycle pioneer

By Mike Giudici Fred Blessin died this year. Fred was a founding member of the Quad-Cities Bicycle Club and served the club in many capacities over the years. He served as club president, led social rides, helped with races, taught effective cycling courses, and was a tireless advocate for safer conditions for bicyclists.

I think it appropriate that we do a significant memorial to Mr. Blessin for his work in getting the bike trail system started in Davenport and the Quad-Cities.

I first met Mr. Blessin when I was 14. I was an avid biker on my Schwinn Varsity and Fred and his wife, Betty, would take me and one or two of my eight-grade biker friends to various places to bike country roads. We went to Southern Wisconsin, the Galena area, up to Northeast Iowa, and other places. The simple joy of exploring new roads!

Fred and Betty were very active in the League of American Wheelmen – now called the League of Bicyclists – and attended tandem rallies all over the country. They were featured on the cover of the LAW publication in the late 1960s. An engineer at the RI Arsenal, Fred rode his bike to work practically year-round and was interviewed by the Quad-City Times because that was very unusual back then. Bikes were for kids to get to the park and school!

Fred took his passion for cycling in general, and safe cycling in particular, and proposed a system of on-street bikeways to the Davenport City Council around 1970. It was accepted and he helped with a bike-a-thon which raised more than \$7,000 for signs. The first bikeway system connected many city parks and then led to the Duck Creek path we know today.

Betty Blessin died at a relatively young age, and later Fred met Mary, a wonderful lady who would be his tandem partner for many years, and who survives him today.

In the history of cycling in the Quad-Cities, the two people who have been the strongest advocates for the sport are Fred Blessin and Carter LeBeau. I think Carter would agree that we should honor Fred for his work that has benefited us all. Fred was a quiet, humble gentleman who accomplished great things with kind words and a smile.

Good-bye Fred, we miss you!

Dr. Mike Giudici wrote this letter and also spoke at Fred's funeral. Your QCBC Board has decided to create a permanent memorial to Fred along the Duck Creek Bike path. The memorial will be a picnic table with benches and canopy installed by the city of Davenport.

The memorial, including a plaque, could be built this year. Mike has graciously offered to donate \$1,000 out of the \$2,800 total cost. You can help us reach our goal by Mike and donating. There is a link on the QCBC Web site to accept credit card donations.

Get Me Registered, manager of the credit card link, has offered this method on a no-profit basis. After credit card fees, your \$20 donation would net \$18.70 for the Memorial. Or you can mail a check endorsed to QCBC-Fred Blessin to QCBC, 2833 Kelling St., Davenport, Iowa 52804. Thank you in advance for your support. You can watch progress towards our goal at QCBC.org.

Key Contacts

Officers:

President - Phil Schubbe (563) 359-5057 or phschubbe@aol.com
 Vice President –
 Recording Secretary – Deb Mathias (309) 787-6547 or mathiasdebdean@peoplepc.com
 Treasurer – Darlene Moritz (563) 386-3499 or dmoritz@access.net

Quad Cities Bicycle Club
P.O. Box 3575
Davenport, IA 52808
<http://www.qcbc.org>

Board Members:

Denise Deuthman (563) 441-0131	Ken Urban (563) 326-3427	Charles Curry (309)797-9283
Donnie Miller (309) 737-8270	Dave Georlett (309) 781-8142	Charlie Sattler (563) 391-3422
Terry Burke (309) 797-3790	John Harrington (563) 940-6023	John Wessel (563) 359-8350

Key Contacts: A complete listing of committee chairmen and key contacts is available on the club’s web site and in the front of the hard copy ride schedule and membership directory 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 twice a year at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of March and October at Rivermont Collegiate, 1821 Sunset Drive, Bettendorf, IA. (3 blocks north of K & K Hardware). Contact Phil Schubbe for program information: (563) 359-5057 or phschubbe@aol.com.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter: Deadline is the 15th of the month. Please try to limit your article to 1 page in length. Email to: qbceditor@yahoo.com or send to: Jackie Chesser or David Weckel, ATTN: QCBC Newsletter, 21008 94th Ave N, Port Byron, IL 61275. 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:



<http://www.iowabicyclecoalition.org>

<http://www.bikeleague.org/>

<http://www.bikelib.org/>

New guidelines for getting into QCBC Storage Shed

A new lock has been installed on the storage shed. Those who need to get into it should contact Darlene Moritz a few days ahead of when they need to get in to arrange a meeting time and sign out articles for use.

The club lost a lot of items, so new rules are being put into place. Lost items include a bucket of tools. Call Darlene at (563) 386-3499. Leave a message if it goes to the answering machine.



Pushing for Pedaling

Promoting bicycling advocacy
By Chuck Oestreich

Tagging up with Deserving Awards

The Quad Cities Transportation Advocacy Group recently presented awards to those who made significant contributions for advancing alternative transportation in the Quad-Cities. Many of the awards and contributions involve bicycling.

Biking – the best biking program or improvement, a joint award to:

- **Rock Island:** first in the Quad Cities with bike lanes and the creation of a bicycle task force.
- **Davenport:** Implementing bike lanes on Jersey Ridge Road and “Share the Road” signs on Main Street as north/south connectors between the trails.
- **Also nominated:** Arsenal Island: expansion of the ADT Trail to connect Iowa and Illinois.

Walking – the best walking program or improvement:

- **Activate QC:** promoting walking activities during “America on the Move” week and the “Safe Routes to School” conference with Mark Fenton.
- **Also nominated:** Davenport: countdown pedestrian signals at stop lights to increase safety.

Transit – the best transit program or improvement:

- **Augustana College:** free bus rides for students and staff.
- **Also nominated:** Bi-State Regional Commission: the new combined map for all three transit systems. Metro’s “smart ad” campaign.

Other Transportation – the best other program or improvement:

- **Bi-State Regional Commission:** support of Complete Streets, greenways and trails, transit initiatives, reduction of air pollution, and other alternative transportation related activities.
- **Also nominated:** Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition: working to bring Amtrak to the Quad-Cities
ePower Synergies of Port Byron: promoting and selling neighborhood electric ZENN cars

Raising consciousness – the best program or improvement:

- **Global Affect:** Augustana’s student group for giving away 14 bicycles to freshman who pledged not to bring a car to campus.
- **Also nominated:** League of Illinois Bicyclists: for the production of the QC Metro Bicycle Map
River Action: for its many years of pushing for a unified system of trail signage

Inside the Car – worst example of what's not helping promote alternative transportation:

- **Bicyclist scofflaws:** They ignore basic traffic laws, making it less safe for all of us as they ride on sidewalks, blow through stoplights or signs, and even ride the wrong way on one-way streets.

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

By Ken Urban

Thanks to Bud Select-drinking, Marlboro Lights-smoking, Hardees-eating, Mountain Dew-sipping, Quad City Times-reading, Skoal-chewing litter bugs, there was plenty of work for the fall QCBC trash clean-up.

On Monday, Oct. 6, volunteers cleaned a two-mile stretch of Scott County Park Road (Old Hwy. 61) between Davenport and Eldridge. The evening weather was beautiful, but with the volume of material, it was almost dark by the time the group finished.

Most of the material was recycled at the Scott County Recycle Center. Pizza at Happy Joe’s was a reward for the group’s hard work.

Hosts Ken and Julie Urban would like to thank Gordon and Karen Fordyce, Jean Kelly, Dixon Novy, Phil Schubbe and Kathy Storm for their assistance. Watch the newsletter and Web site for the spring cleanup date.



Jean Kelly surveys trash collected on Scott County Park Road.

November 2008 Club Rides
Winter Ride Schedule – October through April
Morning rides start at 9:00 AM and maybe shortened or lengthened at the discretion of the riders.

Date	Time	Distance	Start	Leader	Description
Wed Nov 5	9:00 AM	25+ miles	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Darlene Moritz 563-386-3499	Wed. Morning Ride – Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Breakfast stop planned.
Fri Nov 7	6:00 AM		Annual Award Dinner \$25 per person	Questions: Jennifer 309-762-4762 Mail Check to John Wessel 333 9th St. Moline 61265	The Lodge 900 Spruce Hills Dr Bettendorf IA
Sat Nov 8	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	McDonald's on Kimberly Rd at East- ern Ave., Davenport	Determined by riders	Saturday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Sun Nov 9	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Determined by riders	Sunday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Wed Nov 12	9:00 AM	25+ miles	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Darlene Moritz 563-386-3499	Wed. Morning Ride – Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Breakfast stop planned.
Sat Nov 15	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	McDonald's on Kimberly Rd at East- ern Ave., Davenport	Determined by riders	Saturday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Sun Nov 16	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Determined by riders	Sunday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Wed Nov 19	9:00 AM	25+ miles	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Darlene Moritz 563-386-3499	Wed. Morning Ride – Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Breakfast stop planned.

Check web site for updates and additions to ride schedule format. Cont. Page 7



LIB Program to Teach Children Safe Bicycling

AURORA, ILL. – The League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) has announced “Train the Trainer,” its most ambitious statewide campaign ever to promote children’s bicycle safety.

LIB executive director Ed Barsotti said, “We plan to reach into every corner of Illinois to train as many adults as possible who will in turn teach others how to conduct successful bike safety rodeos for our children. We want to recruit police officers, paramedics, firefighters, health professionals, youth leaders, parents, teachers, and others to be on the front lines to help our youngsters realize the joys of safe bicycling.”

Bike rodeos teach children bike handling skills, rules of the road and how to wear a helmet properly. The rodeos also set up simulated road courses where youngsters can practice riding.

“Bicycling can be safe and fun, but we need scores of trainers who can help us spread important safety messages and demonstrate safe cycling to our children through bike rodeos,” Barsotti said. “Reaching bicyclists at an early age helps to instill safety practices that will serve them throughout their lives.”

The Train the Trainer program is being supported by a \$5,000 grant from REI, the outdoor gear store, and a portion from a \$48,875 Safe Routes to Schools grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The training sessions will be offered in 40 sites around Illinois starting in February.

The free, 90-minute sessions will be conducted by Donnie Miller, LIB’s bicycle safety consultant who developed the Train the Trainer program. Donnie, 43, of Moline has long been active in bicycling as an athlete, coach, trainer, and advocate. He is owner of Donnie’s Indoor Cycling Experience, where he is a spin instructor, cycling coach and personal trainer.

“Donnie’s broad experience in bicycling makes him well suited to train the trainers who will receive the knowledge, skills and techniques that can be passed on to others to conduct successful bike rodeos for our children,” Mr. Barsotti said.

“As a bicyclist, I think it is vital that we instill in our children how to ride safely so that they can make it a part of their life of recreation, travel, fitness, and better health,” Donnie said. “I invite everyone interested in our youth to join us in this most worthwhile campaign to spread the word of safe bicycling.”

To learn more about Train the Trainer, visit <http://bike.lib.org/srts/training/index.htm>. To host a session or become a trainer, contact Donnie Miller at (309) 737-8270 or bcycleracr@mchsi.com.

LIB is Illinois’ only statewide, non-profit advocacy group that promotes bicycle safety, education, and access.

RAGBRAI registrar needed

RAGBRAI Registrar for the Quad Cities Bike Club. Position needs to be filled by Dec. 1, 2008. Contact Darlene Moritz at dmoritz@access.net or (563) 386-3499.

2008 Cycling mileage totals

Dave Thompson is seeking total miles ridden in 2008 to be included in the February Pedalwheeling.

Please send him your totals, centuries ridden in 2008 and lifetime mileage, if you know it.

The more people who participate, the more interesting it is. It’s strictly for fun and a great topic for discussion. Send information to Dave by Jan. 10 at the latest to ultrabiker@sbcglobal.net or call him at (309) 764-5030 and leave a message.

Planning Meeting – 2009 Mid-Paced Rides

A planning meeting for the 2009 Mid-Paced Ride schedule will be held in November, with a date and time to be set based on schedules.

If you’d like to help set up the schedule for Mid-Paced rides next year, let Kathy Storm know when you’d be available for an evening or weekend meeting. Contact her at kbstorm@aol.com or (563) 355-2564.

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August 2008 Campout Ride

By Darlene Moritz

A good time was had by all. Thanks to all who were involved.

Joe Jamison brought a trailer to my house and then found out we really didn't need it Saturday morning. We were able to load everything into the back of Duane Fry's truck. Duane was our driver for the weekend. He did a wonderful job. He was there when I needed a Pepsi and others wanted water.

We left for the Savanna Palisades Park about 9 a.m. with a total of eight people for the weekend. We had a few who joined us for parts of the ride. Jeff West made me chase him all the way to Albany, just about wore me out and poor Melinda Thompson was just hanging.

Thank goodness he went home after Albany. Onward to Savanna we went.

There was Jungle Monkey Chad McCoy in Savanna wanting to swing off his bike on the bike path. Melinda was with us to Savanna and then left. We must have worn her out.

Then I taunted Calvin Moss with the hill in the Palisades Park but he turned me down on the first climb in the Palisades. He said it was the Tastee Freeze, that he just couldn't climb anymore hills.

We were blessed with Barb Donald's Chocolate Chip cookies. Yum yum. Ask Keith Brick how much spaghetti he can eat in a sitting. Must have been good he ate it all. Myrna and Robert Rockay brought some wonderful potato salad. Darlene, well she brought the charcoal just in case someone was bad, no really it was to cook with.

Darlene and Duane took a trip to the farm to pick up wood to keep us warm. While we were keeping warm, a couple guys decided to sing and we were blessed with their music. They were cute singing.

There was lots of talking and laughing. Chad only brought a cold sandwich for dinner and said next year he was bringing something to cook. A lesson well learned.

On our trip back Sunday, I again asked Calvin to climb out of the park, but he said no, so on our way we went. Stopped at the House of Events in Savanna and had a wonderful breakfast with too many choices.

On our way back to Moline, we took the same detour as up, but with just a little different route in mind. We had to climb Fairhaven Road for two miles.

Calvin hit 40 mph on the way down so that tells you how steep it was going up. Barb and Keith went back through the Prairie Land by Thomson and said it wasn't bad, just had to get off the bike a couple of times to walk.

Made it to Fulton and low and behold here came that Michael Moritz on his mountain bike like a mad man. He turned around to ride with us wonderful people. We then stopped in Hampton for some good ice cream, and boy was that good. Then off to Moline.

The weather was great. Tailwinds both days, maybe a little warm Saturday but by the afternoon it had cooled off, I didn't feel like a drowned rat or even look like one at the Palisades. I had a great time and I think everyone else did too. Some said they would come back next year, tentatively set for Aug 29 and 30.

Awards Dinner Tricks

By John Wessel

A few tricks are planned for the Nov. 7 awards dinner. Jared Guay will stun you with predictions, floating obstacles and sleight of hand.

Michael Guidici has agreed to be Master of Ceremonies. I booked a trip to visit my wife in Texas months ago without checking the date of our event. It will be a great night. Be there.

Taking a Bite out of Crime

From Adventure Cycling

Julie Huck, Adventure Cycling's membership and development director, recently had the misfortune and bad experience of having a bicycle stolen out of her garage in Missoula, Montana. While trying to track the bike down, Julie discovered the following website, which she thought others in her situation now or in the future might find helpful: <http://www.stolenbicycleregistry.com>



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November 2008 Club Rides

Sat Nov 22	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	McDonald's on Kimberly Rd at East- ern Ave., Davenport	Determined by riders	Saturday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Sun Nov 23	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Determined by riders	Sunday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Wed Nov 26	9:00 AM	25+ miles	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Darlene Moritz 563-386-3499	Wed. Morning Ride – Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Break- fast stop planned.
Sat Nov 29	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	McDonald's on Kimberly Rd at East- ern Ave., Davenport	Determined by riders	Sat Morning Ride - Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Sun Nov 30	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Determined by riders	Sunday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.

December 2008 Club Rides

Wed Dec 3	9:00 AM	25+ miles	McDonald's on Kim- berly Rd at Eastern Ave., Davenport s	Darlene Moritz 563-386-3499	Wed. Morning Ride – Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Break- fast stop planned.
Sat Dec 6	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	McDonald's on Kimberly Rd at East- ern Ave., Davenport	Determined by riders	Sat Morning Ride - Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Sun Dec 7	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Determined by riders	Sunday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Wed Dec 10	9:00 AM	25+ miles	McDonald's on Kim- berly Rd at Eastern Ave., Davenport s	Darlene Moritz 563-386-3499	Wed. Morning Ride – Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Break- fast stop planned.
Sat Dec 13	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	McDonald's on Kimberly Rd at East- ern Ave., Davenport	Determined by riders	Sat Morning Ride - Combined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.
Sun Dec 14	9:00 AM	Determined by riders	Hardee's, 425 55th St. Moline	Determined by riders	Sunday Morning Ride - Com- bined The riders will determine the ride leader, distance & pace. Usually includes a breakfast stop.

Check web site for updates and additions to ride schedule format.

2008 Club Rides

Ride Classification:

Leisure Rides – 10 to 13 mph riding pace. Stops will be taken as needed, and may include a snack stop. Group will wait for slower riders. These are great rides for new members or those who want a slower, relaxed ride. Distances vary from 15 – 21 miles. These rides are offered in the schedule, May – September.

Mid-Paced – 13 to 16 mph average riding speed. Stops as needed. A stop for breakfast is usually included. Group will wait for slower riders when re-grouping. Distances vary from 25 to 65 miles. These rides are offered in the schedule, April – October

Mid Paced (3 Hour Out & Back Rides) – 13 to 16 mph riding pace. No breakfast stop. Distances will be 35 – 45 miles. These rides are offered in the schedule, April – October

Fast Paced – 16 mph or faster average riding speed. Few stops. Group may wait for slower riders. Distances vary from 35 to 70 miles. These rides are offered in the schedule, April – October.

Rider's Choice – the riding pace on these rides will vary depending upon who shows up. These rides are offered year round, throughout the schedule.

Welcome New QCBC Members!

Peter Britt, Bettendorf, Ia.— (563) 359-1990

Rachel Shoot, Bettendorf, Ia.— (563) 355-8597

Don and Becky Luth, Blue Grass, Ia. (563) 381-3750

Mike Ash, Fulton, Il., (815) 499-1460

Steve and Christina Maring, Columbia, Mo. (563) 874-3575

Membership—Head Count

Type	Memberships	Members
COMP	20	20
COUPLE	184	368
FAMILY	95	354
IND	413	412
LIFE	6	12
Grand Total	718	1166

Bicycle Commuter Act Update

From League of American Bicyclists

After seven years, the bicycle commuter tax provision has finally passed the House and Senate as part of the financial bailout package. President Bush said he's eager to sign the legislation.

"We are delighted that the Bicycle Commuter Benefits Act has passed after a lengthy and persistent campaign spearheaded by Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR)," league president Andy Clarke, said.

"Bicycle commuters will now be extended similar benefits to people who take transit and drive to work – it's an equitable and sensible incentive to encourage greater energy independence, improve air quality and health, and even help tackle climate change. Thanks to everyone who has helped reach this milestone, especially Walter Finch and Mele Williams, our government relations staff over the years who have worked tirelessly with Congressman Blumenauer, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and many others in Congress."

Thanks also to all of you around the country who contacted congressional leaders over the years. Keep checking back at <http://www.bikeleague.org> as we work on the implementation process.

A peek at ACE email from Chuck Oestreich

There's good news and bad news about bollards on the Great River Trail.

The good news is that the one by the railroad in downtown Port Byron is gone. So now there are none in Port Byron, Cordova and Rapids City.

Incidentally, the path in Port Byron has another new restaurant, "It's on the River," a full sit-down restaurant with outdoor deck overlooking the river and dock with chairs and tables for those who want to dine "on the river."

The bad news is that the pesky bollards on each side of the path behind the harbor development in Hampton and one on the north side of Illiniwek Park near the railroad tracks, are still there.

I was sure the other two - on each side of the Hampton community park were gone. But recently, I saw the up-river one was back. It's very loose and only about 6 inches deep. It can be easily lifted out, but I was too cautious to do that.

One week it's out; the next week it's in. Whatever, when it's in it's still as dangerous as any other of these mid-path obstructions. So we still are left with four (or perhaps three) of these threats to our safety.

Quad Cities Bicycle Club
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ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO WEAR HELMETS WHEN CYCLING

QCBC works with Guardian Angels

By John Harrington

Thanks to the QCBC, the Davenport chapter of the Guardian Angels is riding safely with new bike helmets. Several months ago, the Angels asked if we would support their plan to patrol the Davenport bike path. They hoped a presence on the path would increase the safety of runners, walkers and riders. We supplied eight red helmets. Davenport police supplied bikes, and funds for bike repairs were supplied by APAC Customer Services, Inc. We were recognized by the Guardian Angels during the inaugural ride on July 17. Their leader was especially appreciative of our support.



Get out and Ride!