

# DERAILLEUR MAILLEUR

February 2009

## (Learn How to) Be a Ride Leader!

By Jim Adgate

It's that time of year again: time to start planning your ride calendar for 2009. The weather may be miserable for riding now, but the season opener (The Champagne Ride) will return on Sunday, April 5th.

This club runs on volunteers, and I hope as a member you will consider leading a ride or rides in 2009. The calendar generally starts in early April and runs through late October. Most rides occur on weekends, although you are welcome to lead a ride during the week.

If you have never led a ride, no worries, Jim Kreps and Julie Sherman will be leading a ride leader training session on Saturday, March 7th. Check the ride calendar for more details at:  
[www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides/rides.htm](http://www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides/rides.htm)

Need help planning a route? We now have a library of old rides at the club website to provide suggestions along with links that will allow you to map routes.

To submit a ride, go to the ride submission page here:

<http://www.chicagocyclingclub.org/rides/rides.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact me at [jadgate@yahoo.com](mailto:jadgate@yahoo.com) or 773-935-1957.

## Help Make Cycling Club News

By Justin Sondak

The newsletter you're holding in your hands or on your laptop or desktop is the product of hours and hours of volunteer work, shaping the paper and pixels you're reading. We need your help to keep our club informed. Please volunteer for the newsletter committee by:

### Hosting a Mailing Party

Typically held on the last week of the month, mailing parties are fun times to see friends and make new ones. You need only provide a table for folding, stamping and counting newsletters. Many hosts cook dinner, for which a collection is taken, but calling for delivery works well too.

### Organizing Mailing Parties

The club needs a well-organized individual to order and bring supplies-stamps, labels, stickers and newsletters-to the mailing parties. These parties run smoother when someone can organize these responsibilities. You will be promptly reimbursed for all supply purchases.

### Scheduling Mailing Parties

The scheduler recruits monthly mailing party hosts, maintains the party calendar, then reminds the hosts and sets a date & time when their month rolls around. Persistence is a plus.

To volunteer, please email me back at [editor@chicagocyclingclub.org](mailto:editor@chicagocyclingclub.org)



## Get on Up to GITAP

This June's Grand Illinois Trail and Parks (GITAP) ride returns to White Pines State Park for two overnights. This League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) event promises a cornucopia of great riding through the varied landscape of northern Illinois, wonderful stopovers amid the woods and stars of scenic state parks, and many enhancements that all lead to a memorable vacation on a bike. Have four tasty and complete buffets at the classic White Pines Inn, take a day off, ride a century, walk the piney trails, check out Lorado Taft's "The Eternal Indian." Statue.

The tour begins on Sunday, June 14 and wraps up on Saturday, June 20, focusing on the southern wing of the Grant Illinois Trail and including sections of the I & M Canal Trail and the Hennepin Canal Trail. This year's minimum distance is 310 miles for the week, but with extra loops, riders can stretch their trip to 585 miles.

GITAP is sponsored by the League of Illinois Bicyclists with support from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The event is an all-volunteer operation, with all proceeds supporting LIB and its statewide bicycle programs. For more information, visit [www.bikelib.org/gitap](http://www.bikelib.org/gitap).



# PREZ SEZ

By Anne Alt



Happy New Year! I am honored to begin this year as the new President of the Chicago Cycling Club. For those of you who don't know me or my history with the club, let me offer an introduction. My experience with the club began in the summer of 1999. I had moved back to Chicago after living out of state for years and wanted to get reacquainted with the city and meet more people. Ride leaders and other riders made me feel very welcome on my first rides, and I decided to become a member. Since then, I have been a ride leader, events volunteer, club treasurer, and keeper of the membership database. I look forward to the challenges of my new position.

Each year we have an opportunity to reinvent the club in a form that suits our current needs, whether through new ride ideas, social events, or revival of old ideas. Put another way, how can we remain a relevant part of members' lives and continue to evolve and grow as an organization.

The cycling club and cycling can play an important role in your life: recreation, transportation, social opportunity, relaxation, exploration, or any combination of these elements. That role may vary as your life changes. The FWEGA (Fourth Wednesday Evening Getting Acquainted) ride has been a traditional introduction to the club for many new and prospective members. Since many members now have young children, a series of family rides to kid-friendly destinations would be a welcome addition to the ride calendar. We continue to offer training rides, picnic rides, theme rides, and destination rides of 10-100+ miles. Previous rides have featured neighborhood tours, city park tours, photography, bowling, art galleries, minor league baseball, concerts, architecture, book stores, environmentally significant locations, and street food, among other themes.

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination and willingness to lead rides. I will lead a ride this year that is new to the club: a digital photo scavenger hunt. I encourage you to create new ride concepts. If you've never been a ride leader, we offer a training session for new ride leaders. There are plenty of experienced ride leaders who can co-lead a ride with you. Our extensive library of routes from previous years can help you plan your route. Talk to a friend, ask around at a meeting or ride, or put your idea out on the club chat list seeking a co-leader. Collaboration can be a great way to build new friendships, strengthen old ones, and create fun events.

Our role in the larger local and regional cycling community encompasses a multitude of people, issues and ideas. Our connection to Active Transportation Alliance (formerly Chicagoland Bicycle Federation) has a long history. Some club members are involved with the advocacy aspect of their mission. We work together on Bike the Drive and the Boulevard Lakefront Tour, two of Chicago's largest cycling events. I will write more next month about our working relationship with them and changes in their organization.

If you have never been to a club meeting, I hope that you will consider attending this year. Come a little bit early and spend time getting acquainted with other members. I would like to increase the social aspect of meetings and have more events that emphasize the social focus of the club.

Our lives change, so our organization evolves with us. Change is essential to our growth and survival. Please take a minute to renew your membership, or join us if you've been thinking about it. Whether you ride with us only occasionally or come out every week, we welcome you as a member of Chicago's cycling community. Let's have fun out there!



## Touring Natchez Trace Parkway Part 3

By Tom Grose

When we left off Ron Eash & I were in Waynesboro, TN. We tried to find breakfast in Waynesboro but nothing seemed inviting, so we pedaled south on Rt. 13 for a diner. Connie's Café was a fine little oasis for breakfast. We pedaled further South on 13 for Collinwood, where we would hook up with the Trace again. We arrived there quickly on our first dry day of the tour. There is a great Visitor Center for the Trace in Collinwood. Collinwood Train Depot, a historic registry building, is now the town library. Ron & I picked up some chow for a picnic lunch at the grocery and headed to the Trace.

Another 10 miles and we reached the Tennessee/Alabama border marker. As we fumbled to take an auto picture two cyclists came by and snapped the photo. They were on a day ride from Brentwood, TN and planned to stop somewhere in Mississippi, a luxury their no baggage carbon fiber bikes made possible. We flew along the next 10 miles through Cypress Creek and some handsome forest on the Trace. We stopped at Rt. 20 to eat our picnic lunch and made arrangements for lodging in Belmont. Nothing was available until Sunday so we pushed on 20 to Florence, where we would stay Saturday night.

It was during this leg of Rt. 20 that I realized Ron was a dog magnet. No matter how Ron tried to beg off the pooches persisted. This included one small dog that managed to chase and bark at Ron & bike for 60 yds. with its mouth clamped on a tennis ball as I pedaled behind him unmolested. I am grateful to Ron I only wish I had that one on tape.

The next morning Ron found the landmark in Florence he wanted to visit. It was a Frank Lloyd Wright designed residence, the Rosenbaum House, which I had never seen. The house is a rich looking Usonian home with an Asian garden. The city of Florence salvaged & restored the termite-ridden home by levying a city sales tax in 1999.

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## About the Club

### Mission

To facilitate recreational bicycling in a non-competitive environment in and around the Chicago area; to promote safe bicycling habits and proper bicycling etiquette; to provide bicyclists an opportunity to network with other bicyclists; to encourage bicycling as a safe and viable alternative to other modes of transportation.

### Contact

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### Officers

President: Anne Alt  
 Vice President: Julie Sherman  
 Treasurer: Alice Kroman  
 Secretary: Michael Wasserman  
 Member at Large: Jim Adgate, Art Gilfand  
 Education: Kathy Schubert  
 Newsletter: Justin Sondak, Tom Grose

### Portable Quotes

It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. Thus you remember them as they actually are, while in a motor car only a high hill impresses you, and you have no such accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle. ~Ernest Hemingway

### Rolling Along: February Calendar of Events

**10** Cycling Club monthly meeting, REI, 1466 North Halsted Ave, 7 p.m. See below  
**13, 26** - Bike Winter Art Show Opening Night, FlatIron Building, 1579 North Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, 6 p.m., More info at [www.bikewinter.com](http://www.bikewinter.com)  
**19, 26** - Bike Winter Salon, FlatIron Building, 1579 North Milwaukee Ave, 5 p.m.  
**19** - Active Transportation Alliance Member Mixer, Weegee's Lounge, 3659 West Armitage Ave, Chicago, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; More info at [www.activetrans.org](http://www.activetrans.org)  
**28** - Albany Park Winter Bike Tour, Gompers Park, Foster & Pulaski, Chicago, 1 p.m.

### Know Your Rights: The February Club Meeting

February's guest speaker is James M. Freeman, a Chicago lawyer, avid cyclist, and advocate for cyclist rights. James will discuss and field your questions about how Chicago and Illinois law relates to cyclists, how to avoid common types of accidents, and what to do after you've been in an accident. James is also a year-round bicycle commuter and racer who provides consultation and legal defense to cyclists, and the keeper of the Chicago Bike Law blog ([chicagobikelaw.blogspot.com](http://chicagobikelaw.blogspot.com)).

Join James and the CCC on Tuesday, February 10. Meet and greet begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the community room at REI, 1466 N Halsted St, Chicago, IL. The shop is located one block south of CTA's North/Clybourn red line stop. Ample bike parking is available.

All are invited to Goose Island Brewery, 1800 North Clybourn Avenue, for our traditional post-meeting revelry.



## STYLE YOUR RIDE



### JERSEYS

Sleeveless .....\$50  
 (Men: S - XL)(Women: S - 2X)  
 Shortsleeves .....\$55  
 (Men: S - 3X)(Women: S - 2X)  
 Longsleeves ..... \$60  
 (Men: M - 3X)(Women: M - XL)  
 WINDBREAKER - \$60  
 (Men: M - 3X)(Women: S - 2X)  
 GLOVES - \$10  
 (XS-2X)  
 SOCKS - \$6  
 (S-XL)  
 BOTTLE - \$3

### CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

may purchase these items by contacting Duane O'Laughlin [merchandise@chicagocyclingclub.org](mailto:merchandise@chicagocyclingclub.org)  
 773-612-8157  
 May not be shipped  
 We will meet you at a club event or ride or you may pick up items by making arrangements to do so in advance.

### Natchez Trace

(Continued from page 2)

We couldn't stay to visit the interior because the house didn't open until 1p.m. and we were anxious to put on miles before noon. We did sneak a peek at the original quaint Wright furniture through the back windows. We headed on Rt. 14 back to the Trace lest Ron take the same dogs in tow from Rt. 20. We were headed for the Belmont Hotel.

(To be continued)



### BECOME A MEMBER FILL OUT THE FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB

I, for myself and for any other minor on whose behalf I sign this membership application, agree that 1) bicycling is a potentially hazardous activity and that accidents can occur from negligence or carelessness; 2) ride leaders' maps and/or written directions are provided for my convenience only and not to guarantee a safe route or trip; and 3) I voluntarily participate in club events and assume all risks associated with participation therein, including but not limited to injury, falls, contact with other participants, weather, traffic, and road conditions, all such risks being known and appreciated by me.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Primary  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secondary phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency contact/phone \_\_\_\_\_

I obtained this membership application from \_\_\_\_\_

I want to receive a paper copy of the members' directory  Yes  No the club newsletter  Yes  No

I would like to help with the following:  ride planning  newsletter  publicity  meetings  social events

Annual dues:  Individual (\$20)  Family (multiple individuals at one address \$25)

Do not share my contact information:  within the Chicago Cycling Club  with other bike-related organizations

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Chicago Cycling Club Newsletter February 2009



“Road to Hegeswich” riders gather at 31st Street Beach

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CYCLING CLUB  
**DERAILLEUR**  
MAILLEUR  February 2009

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