



QUICK RELEASE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ok the season seems to be going along nicely so far with only a few bumps and bruises so far. Our Sunstroke 74 was once again a big hit thanks mainly to the hard work of Larry, who organized the event for us again. The day was a nice day with some cooler weather and only a touch of rain. I would like to thank all those that helped with the event, I know the riders enjoyed it. We also had a very good Summer Solstice Ride and Tour de Hills and thanks go out to all who made these rides possible (Scott, Lisa and Dan). Now we need a few more people to help out with our next event, the sizzlin century: even though this is not a public event this year it would still be nice if we could get some volunteers to do some SAG work for us. See this newsletter for more details on the event.

I would like to remind everyone to be careful out there on the roads, each year we have a few riders that "kiss the pavement" and this year is no different, luckily we have had mostly minor injuries so far. Let's keep it that way by staying alert while out on the road.

Mike

2009 Break Away Bicycle Club Century

Aug.16th 8:00AM

As voted on a couple of meetings ago, the 2009 edition of the BABC Sizzling Century is being done as a club ride this year. Kind of going back to our roots way back in 1986 when the first century was simply a club ride.

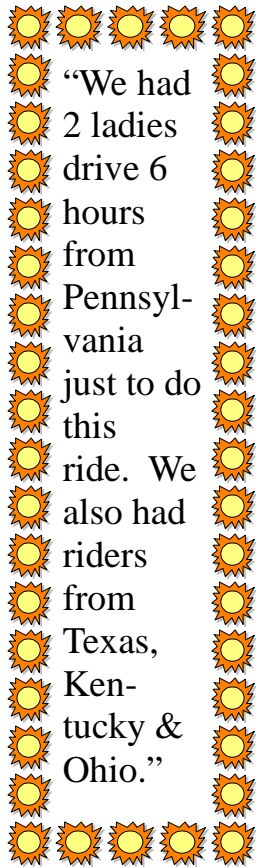
The ride will begin & end at Kokomo Cycling & Fitness just as it did 24 years ago. Rest stops are planned at Adam's Mill, Pipe Creek Falls & Maconaquah Park in Peru. Shorter routes will be available as well.

The Route will be marked, with maps available. Unless we get the volunteers to man sag stops or drive support be prepared to be self supporting.

If you are interested in volunteering to help make this ride more enjoyable, let Mike Shult or Larry Barnhart at Kokomo Cyclery know what you would be willing to do. The earlier the better.

There is no entry fee this year, but if you wish to make a donation to help cover the cost of this ride, it will be gladly accepted.

2009 Sunstroke 74


 “We had 2 ladies drive 6 hours from Pennsylvania just to do this ride. We also had riders from Texas, Kentucky & Ohio.”

The '09 edition of the Sunstroke definitely did not live up to its name again this year. The day was drizzly and cool with a high only reaching the upper 60's. In spite of the questionable forecast for the day, 87 intrepid riders left for what would be a fairly pleasant, albeit damp, bike ride.

This year was the first year we were able to use the entire Nickel Plate Trail from Peru back to Howard Co. We got many positive comments on the quality of the trail.

We had 2 ladies drive 6 hours from Pennsylvania just to do this ride. We also had riders from Texas, Kentucky & Ohio. 25 Indiana cities were represented.

Many thanks to all who volunteered and helped to make this ride another successful BABC event. The event took in \$1259.62 after all expenses and after the split with the Haynes Apperson Festival, the club still made \$629.81. Down about \$70 from last year. But not bad for a cool, drizzly 74 mile ride.

SENATE BILL 0553


Have you heard of this Indiana bill yet? If not here is the basic summary of the bill:

“ Bicycles and traffic safety. Makes various changes concerning bicycle operation and traffic laws. Deletes language requiring a bicycle to be equipped with a bell or other audible signal device. Provides that a person who causes bodily injury to a person riding a bicycle while knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly operating a motor vehicle in the commission of certain traffic infractions commits a Class C misdemeanor, or a Class B misdemeanor if the operation causes serious bodily injury. Makes a technical correction.”

From my understanding a provision has been removed that would require drivers to maintain a minimum 3-foot separation when passing bicyclists on roadways. This would not be a good thing. Though if it is like the law in Iowa it probably would not do much good. The last I knew a person who passed a cyclist closer than the 3-foot minimum must be seen by a police officer in order for them to get ticketed. The cyclist or other cyclists or a motorist on the roadway who witnessed the infraction do not count. Now how many times do you think such an event will occur? Yes, you are more than likely correct if your answer is 'slim-to-none'.

To keep up to date on this bill just go to www.in.gov and do a search for the bill.




 Currently, 14 States and **Washington DC** have banned text messaging for drivers of all ages. Do you think that Indiana should pass a similar bill? Just how safe is it for people to text while they are driving?

HEAD SMART

This is a blast from the past, twenty years to be exact. Thought I would dig this up and see if the reasons why people do not wear helmets today are the same reasons they used back then. Check it out and see for yourself!

The reasons not to wear a helmet always outnumber the reasons that one should protect his or her head.

Common reasons heard from riders for shunning a helmet included:

- 🚲 The weight of the helmet,
- 🚲 The fact that helmets mess up a hairdo,
- 🚲 That they're a problem to keep track of,
- 🚲 That they're too expensive,
- 🚲 That they make one look like a "geek", and
- 🚲 People don't want to look different.

2009 TIME TRIAL SERIES

🕒 Come one, come all and be part of the action!

🕒 There are two time trials to choose from: 20K & 40K distances.

🕒 All dates are to the right and are on Sundays. Registration is from 6:00-6:45AM, in the parking lot on the north side of CVS at Sycamore & Dixon.

🕒 The first rider leaves at 7:00AM with the 40K riders starting first and the 20K following.

🕒 **TIME TRIAL DATES**

🕒 **8-9-09**

🕒 **9-13-09**

20 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

- 🕒 Ride Leaders for the weekly rides were Gary Corbin, Art Pilling, Jim Hayes, Bob Myers and Jolene Moore.
- 🕒 National estimates peg helmet usage at below 5% in many areas.
- 🕒 Nearly 50,000 bicyclists suffer serious head injuries.
- 🕒 Over two million bicycles are owned by Indiana residents.
- 🕒 Clubs members reached to 180 with the additions of George Bellamy, Joyce Bennett, Brian Remich, Tricia Remich and Randy Chapman.

Keep Dogs Away From Cyclists

By Richard Ries

Here's the cyclists position: when I am lawfully bicycling on a public roadway, I should not be exposed to the risk inherent in the presence of loose dogs. It's a position with which government agrees.

Indiana Code, Section 15-5-9, deals with dogs. Most pertinent here is IC 15-5-9-13, which says that dogs must be confined to the owner's premises. When off the owner's premises, dogs must be under the control of "some person." The exception is when the "owner or custodian" is using the dog for hunting. (A search of the internet or a request of a cycling lawyer or paralegal will provide the dog laws for other states.)

Who takes exception to this position? Too many dog owners who let their dogs run loose. Here are some of their arguments and my responses:

He won't bite. Nonsense. All dogs bite. The question is not whether the dog will bite, but rather under what conditions he will bite.

Besides, biting is not the only threat. A dog that crosses in front of a bike and bumps the wheel will almost always cause a loss of control for the cyclists. One of my worst bike accidents occurred when I was commuting to work in Indianapolis years ago. A neighbor's Boston terrier crossed in front of me. I hit the dog and went down. The bike was ruined, as were my clothes. Worst of all, the impact killed the dog.

Chasing is natural. No, it isn't. I've encountered feral dogs on mountain bike rides, and they go to great lengths to avoid human contact. Chasing is an unfortunate result of domestication, and curbing the behavior is the responsibility of the owner.

You have to expect loose dogs in the country. Your obligation to public safety is not diminished because you live in the country. Besides, I ride in the country for the same reason you live there. Low traffic. Great scenery. Your desire to be an irresponsible pet owner does not take precedence over my desire to enjoy riding in the countryside.

It's mean to confine dogs. Confinement is not worse than letting the dog roam free, eating garbage and roadkill, fighting other dogs, and being struck by motor vehicles. Owners bear the primary responsibility for controlling dogs: Train 'em or restrain 'em. But others can take a role.

What cyclists should do

Cyclists should make note of dog encounters and pass the information along to police agencies. Provide such details as time of day, type of dog (breed if you know it, but at least size color and any distinguishing marks), address of the home from which the dog appeared, and the names of any witnesses, such as riding partners.

If there's a persistent problem with a specific dog owner, send a registered letter to that owner and a copy to the police. The purpose is twofold. One, you're alerting the owner to the problem. Two, you're laying the groundwork should you ever have to file a complaint against the owner.

Police agencies should understand the law and enforce it. Insurance companies should advise their clients that loose dogs are unlawful and like other unlawful activity, may exclude coverage in the event of a claim. Even if the law is unclear, an insured party whose dog injures someone on a public roadway exposes both the insurance company and the owner to a civil suit.

Would I sue? If I had an incident with a loose dog on a public roadway and I incurred medical expenses as a result, I would sue. If due to my injuries, my family were deprived of my income, whether short-term or permanently, I would sue. If my bicycle were destroyed, I would sue. Such a suit would not be petty or vindictive or opportunistic. It would be my way of mitigating the losses I endure because someone doesn't understand or will not accept the responsibility that comes with being a dog owner.



Break-Away Bicycle Club 2009 Weekday Ride Schedule



Monday PM	Scott & Lisa Hemmeger along with Randy Simpson will host high speed and pace line work through the hills of New London @ 20+ MPH. Same 32 mile route run every night. The theme of this ride is a safe, respectful, fast group ride, although dropping is a possibility. Start time is 5:30 PM from Sycamore Sports & Recreation Park, located at 3437 West Sycamore. For tri-athletes, lap swimming before and running after the ride is also available. See www.sycamoresports.net for details.
Tuesday PM	Kevin Wisher will be hosting enjoyable rides for all abilities, leaving from Jackson Morrow Park at 5:30 PM. Maps are provided for every route. These rides are for all abilities from social cruising to all out pack riding. Post ride meeting at Mike's Pizza is a normal tradition.
Wednesday "Lunch-Time"	Greg Tackett will be leading a "lunch-time" ride from Body Unlimited Fitness Center, 1805 E Sycamore (old Delco Park), at 11:30 am. Rides to last one hour or maybe longer on occasion. 18-20 mph pace.
Wednesday PM	If you enjoyed Monday night, well, we are doing it all over again on Wednesday. Remember, the route is always the same, slower groups are welcome. Same start time & location as Monday.
Thursday PM	Garry Hill will be providing his excellent maps and pre-marked courses again this year. This ride is for all abilities. Starting point is the Greentown Wesleyan Church at 5:30 PM. As always, social hour begins after the ride at Down on Main Street for those over 21.
Saturday AM	John Bernard will be hosting this ride again. This will be a nice, leisurely paced ride from Taylor High School at 9:00 AM**. No one will be dropped! After the first half is over, riders chomping at the bit may proceed at their own pace (dropping is a possibility!) The main group will stay together!
Sunday PM	If you didn't get enough through the week, Sunday is the show and go, leaving from Highland Park at Rodger's Pavilion at 1:30 PM. Charlie Skoog will be the host. If you know Charlie, you know that these rides could approach 50 miles or more. Riders with less available time may ride shorter distances at their discretion.
Mon. - Thur. AM	Larry Barnhart will be hosting this great training ride. Due to DST, this ride will not begin until late April. Watch for information on the message board for start times. Rendezvous at UTC Park.

****Note:**

The Saturday morning ride will start at 10:00 AM during the months of April & October due to DST and the cooler temperatures.

August 2009

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SIZZLING
CENTURY

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ABBY'S RIDE

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MAX'S MYSTIC
MENAGERIE

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WABASH RIVER RIDE CLUB MEETING
OLIVE GARDEN

RELEASE WAIVERS MEAN WHAT THEY SAY

We are all familiar with release waivers found on event forms aren't we? We quickly sign away our lives saying that we take all responsibility for anything that may happen to us and our equipment at the event saying that that event sponsors will not be held liable in the case that something happens. Now that leads me up to what happened to a woman in Pennsylvania, where a judge ruled against her after she was paralyzed in a crash during the 2005 Tour de 'Toona. She sued the race organizers and various other parties despite having signed 2 release forms that stated the dangers of bike racing.

Jim Moss, an attorney who specializes in legal issues involving sports, told the trade magazine *Bicycle Retailer and Industry News*, "These cases are very sad [but] when you enter a race, join a club, or sign up for a ride, if you're not ready to accept the risks emotionally and financially, don't sign the release, don't race, join or ride. In a majority of states, releases stop lawsuits and if it weren't for releases we wouldn't have races, rides or be able to enjoy this sport." The injured woman's attorney said they'll appeal to a higher state court.

I like what Charles Pelkey said in his article on this subject:

Back in the '80s, any bike race here in Wyoming usually began with the same recitation by good old Mark Ward, the district rep', chief commissaire and organizer of pretty much any bike race we had a chance to ride in those days.

Mark, usually resplendent in a striped referee's vest most of us thought was stolen from some guy who officiated local soccer games, would march up to the front of the peloton in every race, hold a bullhorn up to his mouth, and loudly declare:

"Have you read the release form that accompanied your entry form today? Do you understand the release form that accompanied your entry form today? Did you sign the release form that accompanied your entry form today? If you answered 'no' to any of these questions ..." and then Mark would pause to allow all of us to shout along with the punchline: "... now's the time to become a spectator."

It was a running joke for most of us, but I've since had a chance to study the subject tort liability up close and I now see it for what it was ... namely the icing on Mark's CYA cake.

Mark wanted more than the signature. He wanted us to acknowledge that we read the thing and understood it before we signed it. He also wanted a handful of witnesses who could attest to those facts.

To read Charles' article in its entirety, simply type in this rather long url and hit enter and read away!

<http://www.velonews.com/article/94079/the-explainer---signing-away-your-rights>

So will this change the way you approach release forms in the future?

How much money can you save by commuting by bike?

If you switch from driving, here's a simple calculator that shows the amount your bank account will benefit each day:
<http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/bike>

If you have any comments on what you read in the newsletter, please start a thread at our club's message board.



QUICK RELEASE

QUICK RELEASE is a monthly publication of the Break-Away Bicycle Club from Jan. to Oct., and is distributed to BABC members and bicycle related organizations. Submission of area cycling news and events is encouraged and should be submitted to the editor by e-mail or post. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month. BABC members may advertise personal equipment for sale at no charge, and business ads are available for a fee.

The BREAKAWAY BICYCLE CLUB was established in 1986 to encourage and promote bicycle safety, touring and racing in our immediate area. The club is affiliated with the League of American Bicyclists, USAC and the Indiana Bicycle Coalition.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the Last Monday of the month from Jan. to Sept. at the Olive Garden Restaurant on South La-fountain St. at 7:00PM. The Oct. meeting is the annual Pig Out dinner at a location to be announced as it is reserved.



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BREAK-AWAY BICYCLE CLUB

