

Vol. 30 Nbr. 4

Wheelmen Tracks

April 2008

February Biking in Naples Ohio Club Rides

By Carol Harrison Panek

Biking in Naples, Florida has gotten more fun in 2008 because of two factors. The first is that our tax dollars at work have actually been spent to open several new roads with wide and clean bike lanes.

The second is that we have connected with some Ohio Bike Club members to do some long & safe rides.

Two of our Silver Wheel bike club friends, Tom Cline and Dale Yearick are staying in Naples for the winter months. For those of you who know one but not the other – they look like the doublemint twins. The same height, approximately the same age, the same shaved heads and huge shiny smiles, lead to confusion by some as to who's who. They enjoy – no, revel in – the confusion. They are avid cyclists and both are stronger riders than me. But they are very kind riders and will wait or let me draft them. They enjoy riding with Carl, and both have done some 50+ mile rides with him while I have soaked in the hot tub after a strenuous Yoga class. Change is good.

Add to the mix Dave and Barb Krebs, who visited us for three days last week. Dave joined our regular foursome for Friday & Saturday morning rides that were picture perfect.

Beautiful weather, temps in the 70's, sunny and no wind to speak of combined with great companions led to super fun rides.

Friday morning we met at Dale Yearick's awesome mansion in Mediterra. The two burly gate guards amused themselves with the computerized entrance passes they had printed out for our group. I drove in the van with Dave



and 2 bikes. The van pass was ready for us. Carl and Tom Cline both had individual entrance passes that said "On Bike". Since Carl and Tom both zoomed around the side of the closed gate, the guards were unable to give out their passes. I was told I to hand deliver the passes

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Ice Cream

I waited two months for this ride and it finally came. What is it? It's Mike Granick's famous Ice Cream Ride. There's nothing that special about the ride route. It's what happens AFTER the ride. This year the weather was COLD for SW Florida. We started at 8:30 with the temps right around 46. I wore my knee & arm warmers but left my jacket in the car in favor of a vest. It was supposed to get the mid 60's by noon.

It takes me about 40 minutes to get to the Laurel School from Riverwood via US 41. Later, I found I could cut some time off by using I-75 as the school was only about .5 miles from the interchange.


I was cold for the first ½ hour even with my glove liners. I used my last of the Toasty Toes, so my feet were fine. About 1/3 of the ride was in newly developed neighborhoods and the rest in the country. All in all, we probably only saw 2 dozen cars in 26 miles once we turned off Laurel Road. The group this morning was only about 12-15 riders, about 10 less than usual. Mike remarked that it was the first time we couldn't (didn't) use the lanai by the pool. It was still too cold to sit out the in sweaty clothes. After all, we still had about 4 miles to ride back to the school from his house.

Now to the important stuff. As the title implies, this morning we're going to ride to EAT! Mike makes about 4 gallons of really good homemade ice cream. This year, he made Coffee, Rocky Road, one I forgot and a Cherry Vanilla with a touch of vodka. Of course, the last one was the hit of the party. We polished off the Cherry with NO trouble and made a serious dent in the other three. After seconds and thirds, we mounted our bikes and made it back to the school for the drive home. No, I wasn't tipsy.



Cateye Totals

Member	February	YTD
Panek, Carl	519	860
Krebs, Dave	436	843
Ballard, Ralph	238	586
Panek, Carol	404	525
Cicerchi, Ron	417	487
Hohn, Clyde	198	394
Haun, Mike	218	328
Scheef, Mark	0	130
Petro, Arthur	45	107
Wood, Ed	39	89
Wood, Sandy	39	81
Totals	2,553	4,430

WHEELMAN

LORAIN WHEELMEN

President John Bachman

Vice Pres Clyde Hohn

Secretary/

Treasurer Louise Page

Road Capt. Ron Cicerchi

Editor Dave Krebs

For ride info, call 967-8580

<http://www.lorainwheelmen.org>
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Naples

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to the “On Bike” riders. Apparently the guards had not run into this situation before, and they thought it was quite hilarious. We had to laugh as well, at the whole situation and the joy of bike riding on such a beautiful day.

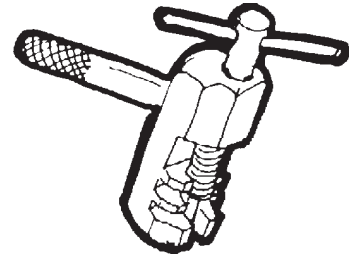
After this laughing start, we rode north to the huge new Trek store at Coconut Point Mall in Estero. Free cappuccino, all the shopping we wanted, and water bottle refills made this a great stop. I got 32 miles – but the rest of our group did more and Tom Cline (overachiever) rode 70 miles.

Saturday morning, Dale had to take his daughter Susan to the airport, so he could not join our group for the ride. The rest of us planned to meet at a park on the Gulf and head south. The biggest and steepest hills in the area are bridges over Naples Bay. Hills are just not a factor when riding in the Naples area. Crashes here are usually caused by bike/automobile contact. While on his way to our start point, Carl passed an acquaintance named Tom Shoeneck who resides year round in Naples. Tom was standing at the side of the road with his bike, waiting for his wife and daughter to pick him up. He had just been knocked down by a passing car and had a nasty gash on his right arm. Carl sacrificed his clean white handkerchief for Tom to use as a bandage and waited until the daughter arrived. Carl was late to meet the rest of the group.

While the rest of the group waited for Carl, we had the great fun of taking turns riding Tom Cline’s recumbent trike. Tom has a US Postal Trek OCLV here, but brought the trike to Florida also. Trying out his recumbent was fun and the brakes really work well. I managed to pop a wheelie accidentally. The four of us had

another safe ride through a development called Port Royal. The mammoth homes there are all on deep water and generally have a yacht anchored off the back. The only people you see around are staff in uniforms walking dogs or sweaty landscapers. About half of the homes are unoccupied, with storm shutters securely fastened. I have been told that some of the owners there have several homes, and only come to Naples in February for the wine festival. It is a very peaceful and beautiful place to ride.

The group stayed safe and crash free and we are planning to keep it that way. We are training for some great riding in 2008 in Lorain County!



Renew Now!

This is your LAST chance to renew and keep your newsletters and CrankMail coming.

Right after I mail this and get the list from Louise, I'll update my newsletter roster and send it to CrankMail. Don't make me drop you from the rolls, only to add you again when you realize you didn't get the newsletter or CrankMail. In that case, you'll probalby miss TWO CrankMails!

If you have any question as to whether you have paid your dues, contact Louise (woofers@centurytel.net) and she'll straighten you out, pronto.

The Hilly Hundred

By Clyde Hohn

Friday

Last October, Ron and I went over to Bloomington to check this event out. It's a 6.5 to 7 hour drive, with a little traffic potential around the Indianapolis beltway. We went over Friday afternoon with the goal of getting registered, etc., before dinner. The whole thing is a bit of a zoo, because the event attracts, according to the website, 5,500 riders. We wanted time to negotiate the mob. You can hardly miss the place. As soon as you get near town, there are ample signs to follow. Parking at the high school they use is well managed. When you get in the school there are signs directing those who have web/mail registered to pick up their packages at a set of tables organized by alphabet, or rider number, or some such. It's all well organized. If you just wait till you get there to fill out the forms and pay, you won't lose much time.

The Safety Speech

Then you get to sit through a long winded safety speech. The head safety guy loved to talk into that microphone. He told us they cared about our safety, and wanted us to have a good time, and he wanted us to ride safely. It took him 20 minutes to say that, and to tell us about the color coding of the plastic vests they wore. I don't think the speech had any effect on my safety practices, but the 5,500 riders did. You get that many riders together the same day, and the chances of one causing trouble in a crowded descent are good enough to scare me. We did see one poor fool who carried too much speed (my guess) on a drop. An ambulance crew was fishing him out of the bushes, way down in a gully.

Bloomington

Ron had found us an old timey motel close to downtown. When we checked in we asked

the sullen local on the afternoon shift about the previously requested roll away bed. She showed us to a closet by the parking lot, and we proceeded to hump the indicated bed up the stairs. This, with my back still smarting from my September crash. And Ron is not cut out to be a furniture mover, either.

Maintenance issues out of the way, we set out to know the town. My kid had advised me to check out chowhound.com. This website carries user reviews of restaurants. It's easily searchable, and allows you to know where to start exploring. We found a restaurant with the unlikely name of Trulli Flatbread. Trulli are little stone houses in Puglia (southern Italy for you geographical illiterates) that look like conical stone ovens. And that's what the stone pizza oven in this place looked like. It was right by the bar, so we got a good look at it. The place had an impressive array of draft handles, 5 or 10, I forget. And good stuff, not 5 flavors of Bud Light. I had an excellent hoppy ale from Indiana.

The next night, we splurged on a place called Restaurant Tallent (Mr. Tallent owned the place, I think). A very pricey, white table cloth place. We ate at the bar. It was very good food. The bartender asked if I liked the wine special of the day he had recommended. I told him it was OK, but nothing special, and without my asking, it was taken off our tab. When I next hit B'town, I'll hit both places.

Sat. after the ride we found a small local coffee place/bakery on the main drag.

The town is walkable and has plenty of places to eat, drink, and get caffeined up.

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Hilly

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The Ride

We rode out to the start from town, rather than face the parking hassle. Its doable, but not fun. It's maybe 5 miles, 2 or 3 of that on a 4 lane. Next time I might drive. We took our time getting dressed, etc, figuring that by the time we rode out and got on the road, we would have beaten the rush, and the temp would have gotten a little more comfortable. We beat no rush. At 10 AM the road was clogged with bikes. Lazy people! We rode our way through the traffic, and it had thinned out by the first food stop. It's tough to gauge this, but I'd opt for a later start, to miss the crowd. It's only 50 miles each day. I'm a timid descender, but I was still frustrated by all the people ahead of me on the drops. One of them crashes when I'm banging along at 25 or 30, and I'm toast.

The roads were free of cars, mostly. The few poor motorists that got mixed up with 5,500 bikes got the worst of it.

It ain't that hilly. It has hills, and a few stiff ramps, but the 20% ramps were short. Most Club members with triples or compacts would have no trouble. Scenery was suitably bucolic. One stretch of road in a park was at the top of a long hill. The drop into the next valley was very gradual, and several miles long. All on smooth, tree shaded park asphalt that had never felt the abuse of truck traffic. It was fast, curvy, & smooth. Next time I might try to loop back and do it twice. Overall, I've seen better scenery and more challenging roads on CFC, or River Rendezvous.

Food stops

Lotsa food stops. More food (3 stops each day, I'd guess) than you need for 50 miles a day. One had chicken for lunch. If I had eaten a representative selection at all stops, I would

have been sick. The quality was good enough, given that there are 5500 people to feed. There was a live band at each stop, mostly blue grass or country stuff. The quality varied greatly, from bad wedding band to some excellent picking. At the end, back at the high school, they were giving away ice cream bars. The entertainment there was the Clown Band. They were a brass band, all members of which were dressed in clown get-ups. They were funny, clowned around a lot & played well, too.

Overall

The only reason not to do this ride regularly is the drive. The entry fee is fair (\$40, plus \$12 more after 8/31). It's well organized. They feed you well, and provide music, too. Bloomington is good town for a weekend, and the ride is a big event for the town. Ron and I agreed that the next time we'd stay Sunday night, too, rather than ride home tired Sunday night.

The '08 event is scheduled for 10/18-10/19. The website tells you all you need to know. <http://www.hillyhundred.org/>



Minutes

The March meeting of the Lorain Wheelmen was called to order by Pres. John Bachman. There were 5 members present. No real business was conducted.

AFROST is set to be on April 20th and the flier was sent to CrankMail.

The Banquet is scheduled for April 5th. You should have already made a reservation with Deb Moennich for it.



Calendar

April 2008

Date	Starting Point	Destination	Miles	The etc's
04/05	150 Jefferson Pl Amherst	Banquet	6:00 7:00	Cocktails Dinner
04/06	Oberlin Inn	Wakeman	45 32	The long way around! The regular route
04/10	Nordson Depot	Prolog Meeting	@ 5:30 @ 7:30	A pre-meeting ride (outside)
04/13	Amherst	LaGrange	54 45	The long way The short way
04/20	Nordson Depot	AFROST	25,50,62	A Spring invitational
04/27	Oberlin	Valley City LaGrange	51 32	Nice long one A shorter alternative

Starting Times & Locations

Shorter Rides:

Those of you that don't want to chase the fast guys, come on out and ride the short route on Sundays. It'll be a reasonable (14-16) mph and we won't leave anyone behind!

Amherst:

The Amherst start is the City parking area 3 located between Tenney & Park Avenues just east of Church Street. From SR 58, go west on Park Avenue. When you get to the bowling alley, look to the left ... that's the lot. We meet on the south end near Tenney.

Oberlin:

The Oberlin start is in the Oberlin Inn parking lot located in the rear of the Inn.

Ride Starting Times:

Sunday rides will start this month at 9:00 and NO afternoon ride.

Saturday rides will start at 9:00 AM from Prospect School in Oberlin

Evening Rides:

We'll start up evening rides in April. They'll start at 5:30 from Prospect School on Tuesday and Amherst on Thursday, except for the meeting night. That ride will start from the Depot.

Lorain Wheelmen Membership Form

New Renewal

Last Chance, Renew NOW!

Name _____ Age _____ Other Family Members _____
Address _____ Age _____
City _____ ST _____ Age _____
Phone () _____ Cell Ph () _____ e-mail _____

Dues (due March 1st) Schedule (1/2 after Oct 1st for NEW members)

Adult/Family \$15.00
(includes CrankMail)

Return To:
Lorain Wheelmen
P.O. Box 101
Amherst OH 44001-0102

Waiver

In signing this release for myself or the named member (when the member is under 18), I understand the intent of this release and agree to absolve all of the sponsors, or organizers and associated entities be they individuals or organizations, singly and collectively of all blame for any injury, misadventure, harm, loss or inconvenience suffered as a result of taking part in any Lorain Wheelmen Bicycle Club ride or in connection with any activity associated with or related to said organization. If the member is 18 or over, he/she signs for self. If not, then the parent or legal guardian must sign below.

Date _____
Signature of member or parent/guardian _____