



Wheelmen Tracks

December 2011

MITTEN MIRTH

Part II

By Clyde Hohn

When we got back into Traverse City from our day trip we stopped at a brew pub on the east side of town to meet Ralene and Joyce. This gave me an opportunity to try the second of 2 brew pubs in this town. I didn't like the beer in either one.

The next morning we had a bright sunny day to ride to Frankfort. We rode west out of town on the bike path and then turned south. The country there is dotted with lakes, big and small, and little towns that service a mostly tourist economy. The terrain rolls all the time, with some flats around lake shores. We came into Frankfort from the southeast, along the Betsie River. I noticed a canoe livery along the river. The river meandered through a pretty marsh, and we got onto a bike path along the river. According to "The Flyfishing Connection" website, the Betsie River is "an excellent Michigan fishery. Although smaller than many rivers it still harbors a superb population of resident trout and is run with tremendous numbers of steelhead and salmon each year.

We were greeted at Betsie Bay Inn with wonderfully salty fried junk food, and a garbage can of cold beer. Good beer, none of that Traverse City swill. Joyce and Ralene had set up shop on the back deck of the inn. They had checked out going to the sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore, but were put off by the long wait to get in, or the price, or some such. If

you are in Frankfort, it's probably something you ought to see. I think I heard the highest dunes are about 500 feet. That's a good dune!

Frankfort is a boating town, with a yacht harbor on the river. There is restaurant in the Inn, there's a busy bar with bar food down the street, and the "Coho", where we had a fine meal. They served excellent sour dough bread from the bakery up the street. Quite an asset to have a legit bakery in a town this small. Frankfort also has a big, white sand beach. Looking north from it you can see the previously mentioned 500 foot dunes. South of town are more dunes. Local hang glider pilots have bought some land on one of the dunes and built a launch site. I saw one land when I was on the beach. One could spend several days in Frankfort, riding, maybe paddling the river, or sitting on the beach. People were swimming in Lake Michigan, too. I didn't test the water temp.

Our last day of riding started off with pastry at the aforementioned bakery. We went out on the bike path we came in on, and climbed up a small grade to the Crystal Mountain ski resort. The residential village was pleasant looking, but I didn't see any mountain. I didn't see anything that would have been challenging to ride on a cafeteria tray. The restaurant at the base area gave us a good breakfast at prices

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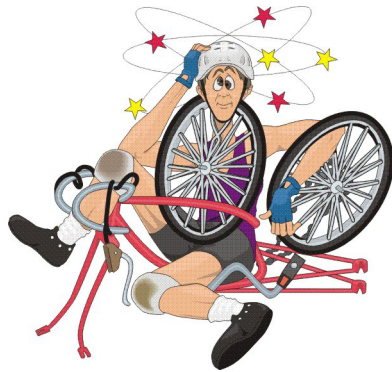
Minutes


Rights to the Road Petition

The November meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., with 19 members in attendance at Ziggy's in Amherst. The Treasurer's report was distributed and approved along with minutes from the last meeting. Clyde reported on the very successful Red Flannel. We had 502 paid riders this year, almost a record for the Club in the number of riders for the R/F! Clyde had several recommendations for the next R/F. The rider injured at Mill Hollow is out of the hospital and back to work with only a few stitches. Clyde suggested that the club look into increasing the liability insurance from one million to two million. The insurance policy is up for renewal in a month. Clyde also suggested that a publicity person is needed to promote the R/F and club donations. Joyce offered to take on that responsibility. The club voted and approved to donate \$750 to the Oberlin Community Service Center. The club voted and approved to appoint a committee to donate funds to organizations. That committee will be comprised of the club officers. The banquet will be chaired by Deb, and will be held in April 2012. If you have a suggestion for a restaurant, send Deb your location. We are considering Chez Francois and Jackalope.

The club voted and approved to provide two dinner vouchers to Dave Krebs for the restaurant chosen for the club banquet if he is not able to attend on the date to be chosen. Clyde and John thanked all club members for their efforts in putting on a most successful Red Flannel. The R/F is one of the best invitational rides in the Midwest, as evidenced by the increasing rider attendance and glowing rider comments on our innovational. We should be proud of efforts on hosting this great bicycle event.

The draft Senate transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (S.1813), includes a mandatory sidepath law for roads on Federal land. The proposed law would force cyclists off roads with an adjacent path and with a speed limit of 30mph or higher - regardless of the safety, condition or utility of the path. Right now, we want to show the Senate how important this issue is. As part of our I Bike. I Vote. campaign, please sign our petition opposing the mandatory sidepath provision. Share the petition with your club, friends and family too.



<i>WHEELMAN</i>		LORAIN WHEELMEN
<hr/>		
	<i>TRACKS</i>	
President		John Bachman
Vice Pres		Clyde Hohn
Secretary/		
Treasurer		Louise Page
Road Capt.		Ralph Ballard
Editor		Dave Krebs
For ride info, call 440.775.1573		

way below what I think of as ski resort prices. The terrain was the usual rolling with lakes everywhere. We met up with Ralene for the last 15 or so miles of riding, into Manistee.

We stayed that night at the Ramsdell Inn, an imposing, maybe 4 story, 100 year old former bank building. There was a pub in the basement. The rooms were good and the lobby was impressively large, but not used for much. They put out a minimal breakfast there in the morning. Manistee is a real town, not a tourist village, and it wasn't as glossy as Frankfurt. We ate dinner in a good restaurant out toward the mouth of the river. I can't find the name of the place.

A DIGRESSION

I left out a critical part of the story about our ride from Petoskey to Charlevoix. We had planned to have lunch that day in East Jordan. Ron told us it was famous (maybe "slightly well known" is more like it) for making manhole covers. As we rode into town, the manhole covers on the road past the foundry (source of said manhole covers), were the most beautifully crafted manhole covers I had ever seen. Each one bore a relief sculpture of some scene, of historical significance, I guess. I didn't get down on my belly to fully appreciate the art. I bet the Chamber of Commerce puts out a pamphlet for a self guided tour of the manhole cover art. On the other hand, the manhole cover art was the high spot on our tour of East Jordan. We ate in a serviceable, Sterk's-like diner. Go to East Jordan for art, not food.

CONCLUSION

This area of Michigan offers scenic, lightly traveled roads. There are numerous towns to choose from to put together a trip. The terrain is not as challenging as Vermont, but it's much more interesting than our soybean fields. I'd like to go back sometime. If you want to check it out, get the "Bicycle Map of Northern Michigan", from www.cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org .

Yellowstone

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the oohhs and aahhs was sensory over load
..... oh, the peace & quiet of the experience.

On the return trip I stopped to watch a huge herd of buffalo and a few elk in a large meadow. While stopped and leaning up against my bike, a service vehicle slowly passed by giving me a very quizzical look. Later on, while visiting the Wolf Recovery Center, I met the people that were in the truck. They told me that there were two wolves intently watching me from behind. I never thought of turning around!!!

RAAM record setter Pete Pensyres once commented that there are only two ways to see this country; one is from the cockpit of a small air plane at very low altitude, and the second and best way is from the seat of a bicycle.

Yellowstone, a Different Perspective

by Steve Hill

In early March, while contemplating another 2 ½ months of winter in Idaho, I knew I needed an escape. I have visited Yellowstone several times, beginning in the late 50's, but never by bicycle with snow.

Yellowstone National Park starts (weather permitting) clearing the snow off the roads the first week of March. The Park is then open to human powered conveyances i.e. cyclists and service vehicles until the official opening in mid April.

I nixed my original plan of camping in the snow due to animal management area issues within the park and elected to day trip from West Yellowstone.

“Armed” with my standard basic winter survival “kit” and basic bike tools I rode through the barricaded West Entrance Gate early on a clear and very cold morning. No noise nor vehicles, just the sound of my tires on the dry pavement and the solitude you experience when traveling alone through a National Park in the off season.



I rode along the Madison River stopping often to marvel at the Trumpeter Swans and the Buffalo on the OTHER side of the river. As I got closer to Madison Junction, there were Elk & Buffalo near the road. Mary & I have become very complacent at seeing large predators, Elk, Moose and Mule Deer up close and personal in the back country. But sharing the road with Buffalo?? As I proceeded towards Madison Junction, the Buffalo were now ON the road. Sharing the road with buffalo, while

on a bicycle, is an interesting experience. They are beautiful, but fearsome looking creatures.

At Madison Junction I turned North towards Norris Geyser Basin. It seems to be a continuous climb along the Gibbon River, with a few miles of road construction thrown in for the challenge of it. The construction area was deep mud. I was riding a Scott CX Cyclo Cross bike with 700c35 tires. My choice for road conditions in our Idaho valley i.e. dirt, gravel, mud & very coarse pavement. A good choice for this trip also.

Just before reaching the Norris turn off,

I came upon a guy standing next to his Beamer parked in the middle of the road. He pointed to the snow covered meadow and asked “what do you make of that?” He then got in his Beamer and left. It was a wolfpack lazily napping in the sun. One was digging some poor hapless rodent out of the deep snow. A den of pups “cheered” as he / she came up with the prize. I sat in the middle of the road for 45 minutes and watched until I began to get really cold. No

hoards of people with cameras, not one vehicle passed by.

On another occasion I cycled to Old Faithful. In addition to sharing the road with Buffalo, I was warned that this was a Bear Management Area and the bears coming out of hibernation were hungry and can run really fast! There were maybe 5 cars in

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Calendar

December 2011

4 th	Oberlin Inn	You Show	25-40	Did it Rain?
11 th	Oberlin Inn	You Show	25-40	Did it snow yet?t
18 th	Oberlin Inn	You Show	25-40	Not too cold, is it?
25 th	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	25-40	A Christmas ride
01/01	Amherst	U-Show	25ish	Happy New Year!

Starting Times & locations

Oberlin:

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

Amherst:

The Amherst start is the City parking area 3 located between Tenney & Park Avenues just east of Church Street.

Weekday rides:

Evening rides KAPUT! The official evening rides are done for the season. They'll be back next spring.. Standard time is here and there's NOT enough light. We can still do the Tuesday morning ride if the weather cooperates. It starts at the Oberlin Depot at 10:00 AM and travels to both ends of the Path (26 miles) at a 15mph pace. Check with the Road Captain for other pick-up rides.

Weekend & Holiday Starting Times:

Sunday & Holiday rides start at 9:00 AM Eastern Standard time 'till next spring. Ride destinations and distances are only a guess and will be changed if weather is a factor.

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

Don't forget to turn in your miles to: mymileage@lorainwheelmen.org!



Cateye Totals

Research Supports that Trails Affect Property Value

Member	October	YTD
Maddock, Daniel	870	7,827
Maddock, Tina	836	7,264
Cicerchi, Ron	582	5,077
Ballard, Ralph	467	4,601
Panek, Carl	515	4,374
Hendrickson, Joel	559	3,858
Hohn, Clyde	386	3,719
Trost, Bill	437	3,307
Panek, Carol	360	3,015
Linneman, Ray	0	2,921
Petro, Arthur	306	2,853
Zagorsky, Ben	170	2,791
Bachman, John W.	583	2,783
Keiser, Lynn	583	2,783
Hubbard, Dennis	355	2,559
Krebs, Dave	135	2,492
Galis, Larry	157	2,438
Weber, Dave	0	2,004
Moennich, Debbie	391	1,879
Moennich, Jim	391	1,864
Carruthers, Mary	0	1,791
Chaill, Susan	157	1,745
Wilbur, Frank	88	1,704
Chriss, George	0	1,600
Riggs, David	0	1,168
Hubbard, Karla	0	1,040
Riggs, Diane	0	846
Stacklin, Jeff	171	800
Trost, Mary Ann	85	743
Linneman, Ralene	0	615
Page, Louise	0	183
Wilbur, Betty	0	178
Seman, Thomas	0	118
Hill, Steve	35	35
	8,619	82,975

University of Cincinnati researchers Rainer vom Hofe, an associate professor of planning, and Olivier Parent, an assistant professor of economics, studied how regional trails affect property values -- and the results are not surprising at all. Their research on the Little Miami Scenic Trail - a 12-mile southern stretch of the trail that runs through the Cincinnati metropolitan region - showed a direct financial impact on residential property values in Hamilton County, Ohio. Using a research model they developed, Parent and vom Hofe found that from a real estate perspective, trails can have significant, positive spillover effects on property values when these properties are located within reasonable distances to the trails. Specifically, housing prices went up by nine dollars for every foot closer to the trail entrance. Ultimately, the study concluded that for the average home, homeowners were willing to pay a \$9,000 premium to be located one thousand feet closer to the trail. [Source University of Cincinnati](#)

Betty / Wilbur

Betty Wilbur passed away on December 2nd after a brief bout with cancer.

A memorial Mass will be held Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 10 A.M., at Sacred Heart Church, 410 W. Lorain Street, Oberlin, where Betty was a lifelong member. Father Robert Cole, Pastor, will officiate.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Disabled Veterans, in memory of her four brothers who all served in the military.

Hempel Funeral Home of Amherst is honored to serve the family of Betty Ann Wilbur.

Additional information and online register book are available at www.hempelfuneralhome.com

Lorain Wheelmen Membership Form

New Renewal

Name _____ Age _____ Other Family Members _____

Address _____ Age _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Age _____

Phone () _____ Cell Ph () _____ e-mail _____

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

Adult/Family \$15.00

Return To:

Lorain Wheelmen
P.O. Box 102
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 _____