

GWBC CLUB INFORMATION

Website: www.geneseewanderers.org
Yahoo Group Mailing List: geneseewanderers@yahoo.com

President: Algie Murphy president@geneseewanderers.org
Vice-President: John Davison
Secretary: Barb White
Treasurer: Paul Semerad treasurer@geneseewanderers.org
Webmaster / Spokesperson: Allen Murphy webmaster@geneseewanderers.org



The Spokesperson

Official Newsletter of the Genesee Wanderers Bicycle Club

February 2007 Issue

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2007! While it is not the time of year for bicycle touring in Michigan, our members still find ways to stay active. There are die hards that ride daily on rigged up mountain bikes, gym rats that log mile after mile in spinning classes, travelers who head south to tour, and cross trainers that make the most of the snow by cross country skiing. Although winter certainly isn't over, it's never too early to start planning for the riding season. In this issue of *The Spokesperson* you'll find an insert with the 2007 Ride Card and Training Log, which includes the schedule of club activities for the coming year.

In addition to a great year of riding ahead, the Wanderers also have important business to attend to. The upcoming election will determine many positions on the board, including that of president, as Algie will not run for re-election.

With that in mind, read on, reflect, and enjoy. It won't be long before the weather breaks and everyone will be back on the roads.

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Road Bike Lies

submitted by Matt Assenmacher

“It’s not that hilly”

This climb lasts longer than a presidential campaign. Be careful on the steep sections or you’ll fall over -- backward. You have a 39x23 low gear? Here’s the name of my knee surgeon.

“This energy bar tastes like real food”

This energy bar tastes like real dog food.

“You’re doing great, honey”

Yo, lard-o, I’d like to get home before midnight. This is what you get for spending the winter watching football and gobbling Sausages. I should a married that cute Cat 1 when I had the chance.

“It’s not that windy”

Yes, that was a mobile home cartwheeling by. No, they’re not supposed to be that mobile.

“I was just riding along when it broke”

I rode down a flight of stairs on my 398-gram race wheels. I drove into the garage with my bike on the roof. I decided to save weight by filing the rails on my saddle.

“This is a no-drop ride”

I’ll need an article of your clothing. It’s for the search-and-rescue dogs.

“The proprietary Carbonium tubing yields a stiff yet compliant ride”

This bike feels exactly like the 14 gazillion others produced in a monster factory in Taiwan, but our marketing guy had to come up with something to justify the \$4,000 price tag.

“It’s not that far”

Yes, it is.

Skiing Update

Last Sunday's (January 21) skiing at West Branch was a big success. The conditions were good and we had lots of fun. We even got a dusting of fresh snow in the afternoon. Here's a look and the remaining schedule.

Genesee Wanderers 2007 NORDIC SKI SCHEDULE Please call leader for confirmation/information		
Date	Location	Leader & Phone
Sat., Jan 6	Ogemaw Hills, West Branch	Margaret (586) 726-1540
Fri., Jan. 12 thru Mon., Jan. 15	MLK International Ski Trip Stokely Creek, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Hotel: Satellite (800) 267-5935	Richard (810) 487-1368
Sat., Jan. 20	Grayling	Margaret (586) 726-1540
Fri., Feb.2 thru Sun., Feb. 4	Gd. Haven Getaway Big M & Muskegon S.P.	Richard (810) 487-1368
Sat., Feb. 10	Corsairs, Tawas City	Margaret (586) 726-1540
Fri., Feb. 16 thru Mon., Feb. 19	Empire & VASA (President's Day) Sleeping Bear, Homestead, T.C. Hotel: Lakeshore Inn (231) 326-5145	Dave Block (810) 653-8919
Sat., March 3 thru Sun., March 4	Grayling Holiday Inn (989) 348-7611	Margaret (586) 726-1540
Sat., March 10	Ogemaw Hills	Richard (810) 487-1368
Fri., March 16 thru Sun., March 18	Wabos Loppett Stokely Creek, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	Diane (810) 678-3117

The Worst of Times? (A Tour Story)

by Rick Roberts and Allen Murphy



I recently received a note from Rick, along with his ride log from his latest tour. Rick wrote, "If you don't think this is 'newsworthy' that's ok, you don't need to publish it. Just wanted to point out that not all tours are a blast, but if you get home safe then the tour is always good." I couldn't have said it better myself. Below, you'll find an edited version of Rick's log. Was it the best of times, or the worst of times? You decide.

- Allen

12/25/2006 (91 miles)

Touring bike, headed across the state with Mike. I had three flats including a cut tire that is ruined. Mike had at least two flats and his tires dry-rotted (now that just about pushed me over the edge). Flatted in the pouring rain and we were lucky to get a room in Moorhaven because my usual motel was condemned. Just a bad day and it is Christmas – probably the only dog riding today. Although the traffic was light, the route across to Moorhaven from Punta Gorda can be dangerous. I'm not in my usual good mood prior to a tour. One other thing – to ride all day and not get a century doesn't sit well with me.

12/26/2006 (86 miles)

Touring bike, 70-85 degrees, another three flats for me and probably three for Mike. What's with the asphalt in this state? I'm just about out of patches and no spare tire. Mike's worse off than me, he just doesn't understand that we need to find a bike shop or we could end up dead in the water. At least it was easier to find a motel now that we're on the east coast. We're through West Palm, headed north. Seems like it's done raining.

12/27/2006 (100 miles)

Touring bike, 70-85 degrees. From West Palm we are headed north to Ft. Pierce. Mike breaks a spoke, but I finally find a bike shop. Mike asks for one tube – I'm really frosted inside now and I just about leave him. I get a new tire, four tubes, and a patch kit. Mike decides to get another tube and an undersized touring tire (700, 25c). Sure enough, he has a flat in traffic and has to put the same dry-rotted tire back on the bike. We get to Okeechobee and



luckily we find a room. Tomorrow I'm planning to get back to Venice, with or without Mike, so he better get some rest. I'll be glad to get this tour in the books.

12/28/2006 (131 miles)

Touring bike, 70-88 degrees. Now this is a nice day. 6:50am start. We have a disagreement on the route, but I know the way – I'm going. By gosh, Mike followed me like a shadow the whole way. Got through Arcadia where we had lunch. Then it was non-stop to Sarasota and south to Venice. The last two days of this ride weren't too bad, but I really didn't have that good of a time – bike problems, bad weather, whatever. I don't think I'll go on the road again on Christmas day, just doesn't seem right. One thing about Mike: he always lagged behind me on other tours, but this time he stayed pretty close, so either I'm getting slower or he's getting faster.

12/29/2006 (1 mile)

Touring bike, 80 degrees. Probably the best mile all year. That's all dad can do right now and with him just about 88, you never know when the last mile comes. As I reflect on this last tour, it only lasted four days, but we covered 408 miles, criss crossing the state of Florida from coast to coast and around the huge lake Okeechobee. I've now toured the Florida coastline from Daytona to Key Weston the east coast and pretty much everything south of Tampa on the west coast. If I may quote Nick Gerlich, tour guide for the famed Hell Week rides, a ride like this "thickens your skin, intensifies your resolve, and clears your vision." So true, but I've always loved the last day the most, because there just isn't a better feeling than bringing the train home.



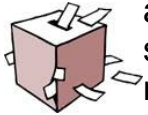
Time to Renew

Just a friendly reminder that it is time for our annual members to renew their GWBC memberships. Memberships run April to April in any given year. You can find a membership application on the inside back cover of this newsletter.



Election

This spring, the GWBC will hold its annual election. Many seats on the board are up for grabs, including that of GWBC President. Algie has stated that he will not seek re-election. Matt, Sam, and Brad have been asked to form the nominating committee. Interested individuals should contact one of these committee members to submit nominations or get more information. If you're wondering what the GWBC President does, see page 7.



Touring Detroit

by Margaret Westerman

Last summer I discovered a ride that boosted my bicycling enjoyment. On Saturday mornings the Wolverines sponsor a ride that goes to a different Detroit neighborhood each week. The first time I joined this small group of riders, we rode from the Wayne State University area down to the river and out Jefferson Avenue to Grosse Pointe. We took a short detour to see the Manoogian mansion, home of Detroit's mayor. Other rides have taken us to the upscale Palmer Woods neighborhood, historic Fort Wayne, and the Frank Lloyd Wright house on Seven Mile Road.

We've toured several of the small but very nice neighborhoods that have escaped the blight that plagues much of Detroit. Corktown, near the old Tiger stadium, has small beautifully restored wood frame houses perched close together. Nearby, the Woodbridge neighborhood contains several blocks of large brick houses, meticulously maintained by their owners.

(continued on page 3)



Genesee Wanderers Bicycle Club

6455 Corunna Road
Flint, Michigan 48532



Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

_____ New Membership

_____ Renewal

Areas of Interest: _____ Ride Leader _____ Social Events

_____ Membership _____ Board of Directors _____ Spokesperson Editor/Writer

_____ Nordic Skiing _____ New Member Support _____ Assenmacher 100 Volunteer

\$12 Annual Dues for family/individual; \$20 Annual Dues for Club or Organization
\$25 Sustaining Member; \$125 Lifetime Membership

Dues are due March 1 of each year. Makes checks payable to **GWBC**.

I agree that GWBC and its members and volunteers are *not liable* for any loss, injury, or death related to Club rides or activities. I understand that there are risks inherent in cycling and I accept such risks and release the Club and members from *all* liability in return for being allowed to participate in Club activities. I understand that I alone am responsible for my safety, health, and cycling ability. *I agree to always ride safely, wear a bicycle helmet, and observe all traffic laws.*

Date: _____ Signature(s) _____

(continued from page 1)

One Saturday in August the weather looked threatening and only three riders showed up. While heading toward the Heidelberg project (a controversial public art project that draws viewers from throughout the world), we came across St. Josaphat Church, which I'm sure most of you have seen from I-75. We discovered that the church was unlocked and saw an impressive interior with stained glass windows and five altars. The church offers a Latin mass once a month and serves a parish that was originally Polish. That got us interested in other neighborhood churches, so we rode by Sweetest Heart of Mary, St. Albertus, and St. Joseph. At St. Joseph you can hear mass in German. We also stopped by the Capuchin Monastery on Mount Elliott. I started referring to this particular ride as the "lapsed Catholic ride."

One of the best features of this ride is that it starts and ends at Avalon Bakery, which I consider the best bakery in the metro area. It's a perfect place to buy coffee and a pastry and socialize after the ride. If you're interested in trying this leisurely paced ride, it starts at 8:30 each Saturday through September. Check the Wolverine website for any changes. Avalon Bakery is at 422 W. Willis just west of Cass.

Support GWBC Rides

While the Internet has made instant communication a reality in the 21st Century, please remember to look to our list of scheduled rides first before throwing together a last minute ride via email. We're fortunate to have many members willing to lead rides throughout the year, and we need to support these rides whenever possible. Ride leaders are encouraged to promote their rides early and often.



If you have a ride planned, feel free to use our website, Yahoo email list, and *The Spokesperson* newsletter to get the word out. These media are all at your disposal.

Just send your information to geneseewanderers@yahoogroups.com or webmaster@geneseewanderers.org.

And, of course, if no club rides are scheduled and you feel like company, please drop an email to the list to see if any other members are up for a ride. Who knows, you may decide to make it a regular thing!



Important Dates in 2007

While our Ride Card details all of the rides and events we have planned for 2007, these dates highlight important meetings and events for club members.

- **March 14:** First Wednesday night ride in Lennon!
- **March 21:** Board Meeting after the ride.
- **April 29: Spring Potluck and New Members Meeting** at the Lennon United Methodist Church, 1pm. Don't let the name fool you, this meeting is for all members. We'll also complete the election at this meeting.
- **May 16:** Board Meeting after the ride.
- **July 18:** Board Meeting after the ride.
- **August 12:** A-100 Pre-Ride
- **August 19:** 27th Annual Assenmacher 100
- **August 26:** Appreciation Dinner for A-100 Volunteers
- **November 4:** 2008 Ride Card Meeting
- **December 2:** Holiday Potluck

What Does the GWBC President Do Anyway?

by Allen Murphy

With the 2007 election looming, some of you may be wondering what it takes to be GWBC President. I recently had the opportunity to question outgoing GWBC President Algie Murphy on the responsibilities and duties of the office. Here is a "top ten" list of the items we discussed:

1. Attend and oversee GWBC board meetings.
2. Represent GWBC at local gatherings related to bicycling, such as rails-to-trails and others.
3. Maintain positive relationships with local communities such as Lennon and the good people of the Lennon United Methodist Church, who allow the GWBC access to their facilities.
4. Nag your only son relentlessly until he publishes another issue of *The Spokesperson*.
5. Accept both criticism and praise in stride, realizing that you're only successful because of others and that it is difficult to please everyone.
6. Promote the GWBC and its interests at events across the state.
7. Delegate responsibility effectively.
8. Ride 10,000 miles a year.
9. Call Patti, Paul, or Matt when you have questions.
10. Act as a voice for all bicycle riders in Genesee County (Apparently, this does not mean cuss out everyone that honks at you on the road!)

GWBC Assists with Visionary Bike Ride & Walk



On January 18, 2007, GWBC President, Algie Murphy, attended an informational meeting of the Visually Impaired Center to discuss their upcoming Bike-a-thon fund raisers. At that meeting, Algie committed to assisting with road marking for the Shiawassee County Visionary Bike Ride, to be held on June 24, 2007. GWBC members interested in helping with the road marking effort should contact Algie.

More on the ride from the Visually Impaired Center web site at www.vicflint.org:

What is the Shiawassee County Visionary Bike Ride & Walk? The Visionary Bike Ride & Walk is a recreational event that raises money for the Visually Impaired Center. The bike ride portion of the event is a tour of beautiful northern Shiawassee County and southern Saginaw County. The walking portion of the event follows the scenic "James Miner River Walkway" which runs from Owosso along the Shiawassee River to Corunna and back. Both the biking and walking portions of the event start and finish at Owosso Middle School (219 N. Water Street, Owosso, Michigan, 48867).

Routes: This event offers three beautiful bike routes that feature flat to rolling roads. The routes include river views, rolling hills, winding roads, and historic farmland. There is one walk route on a footpath that runs along the Shiawassee River from Owosso to Corunna and back.

Short Bike Route: 13 miles

Medium Bike Route: 25 miles

Long Bike Route: 62 miles (100 km)

Walk Route: 7 miles

Rider and Walker Fees: All riders and walkers must pay a minimum of \$20.00 (\$30.00 after May 24, 2007) to participate in the event. However, the VIC encourages you to collect pledges from friends, family, and co-workers to raise much needed funding for the Visually Impaired Center. Participants who raise \$80.00 (or more) plus the \$20.00 entry fee will receive a FREE event t-shirt!

Additional Information: Parking will be available at the Start/Finish Point (Owosso Middle School). Registration will be located inside the school. You will receive a route map, marked bicycle routes, check points with food/drinks along the way, and sag wagons to help with broken bikes or injured/tired riders or walkers. FREE event water bottles will be given to all ride/walk participants!

The Visually Impaired Center will also hold an event in **Genesee/Lapeer** counties on July 22, 2007. This event starts at Siple Elementary in Davison. See www.vicflint.org for more information.