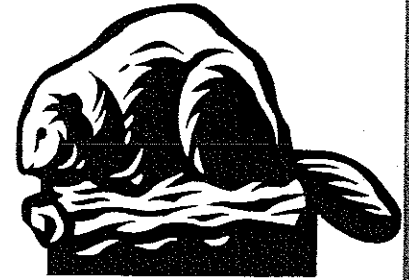


The "RAMBLER"
Newsletter for the
Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club

February 2004



SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER

You might think that's the big news in this month's newsletter but you'd be wise to adhere to the old saying, "Never judge a book by it's cover". True, we are being blessed (or plagued depending on your viewpoint) by a Michigan Winter of old times, but there are still lots of bicycling related events going on in the club. For starters, Bill Baker is our new Ride Director. We thank Bruce Freeberger for the years he gave to the club and wish him much success in his new career. John Tarantino has agreed to continue his outstanding club leadership as president. Keeping it in the family, wife Marilyn has agreed to another year as our club Treasurer. Tom Hill, who we usually see spouting his unique verbiage from the handlebars of his trusted mountain bike has found the new podium in our meeting room an equally nice place to spout and will continue as the club's secretary. And finally with a little arm-twisting from fellow members I have agreed to remove the "Interim" from my moniker and attempt to bring you an unbiased report of club comings and goings for the rest of the year. I will be ably assisted by my devoted publishers Bill and Annette Smith.

A few years back, when the Clinton River Riders hosted the annual Bike Feast, it was the Slow Spokes who sent the largest contingency of members to support the event. This year, the Slow Spokes are hosting the event. I'm hopping our club can respond with the same amount of enthusiasm and keep this worthwhile tradition alive in Southeast Michigan. See details in side.

Gary Haelewyn—Editor

Bill & Annette Smith—Publishers

BWR Tshirt design postponed until March Meeting.

It was decided at the February meeting to hold off selecting the 2004 Blue Water Ramble T-Shirt design until March to allow more entries time to compete. If you can chew gum and scribble on a pad of paper while talking on the telephone you qualify as a potential artist capable of producing an award winning design. Our in-house club artist, Doris Mulligan, will assist anyone with an idea. Call Doris at 586-465-9342 and she will help you bring your idea to life, or, call Diane Baker 586-739-0261 to email her your computer generated idea.

February 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Public Forum	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Public Forum	26	27	28
29						

HOTLINE

586-819-0222

(Press 1 for latest info)

WEEKLY EVENTS**CHANGES**

Bill Baker

586-739-0261

- Mondays 1st of Month Club Meeting, 7:00-9:00PM, Clinton Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank (From Prestige, take Garfield (N) to Clinton River Road (E) to Romeo Plank (N). Bldg is on right at (SE) corner Romeo Plank and Canal. 1st floor on right**
- Tuesdays OPEN**
- Wednesdays OPEN**
- Thursdays OPEN**
- Fridays OPEN**
- Saturdays 9:00AM** Meet Jane Bernard at Schultz Funeral Home (Toepher & Gratiot) for a 14-16mph 25-30 mile ride to Windmill Pointe. Breakfast follows.
- 9:00 AM** Meet TJ Hill at the Stoney Creek Boat Launch for mountain biking to unknown destinations at the pace of the slowest rider for a distance to be determined.
- Sundays 9:00AM** Meet TJ Hill once again only this time at the West Branch Ski trails for more of the same Mountain biking.
- 10:00AM** Join Jane Bernard and the Wolverines at the Cadieux Café (Cadieux bet E Warren and Mack) for rides to Belle Isle or Mt Clemens at varying speeds. Distance and speed varies between 25 and 40.

This could be your last newsletter . Have you paid your dues for 2004???

March 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Club Meeting	2	3 Public Forum	4	5	6 Ski Trip
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 St Pat Ride	15	16	17	18 Public Forum	19	20
21 Bike Feast	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SPECIAL EVENTS

February 18 —Public Forum 7-9:00PM: Macomb County Trailways Master Plan. Warren Community Center—5460 Arden Road. See what trailways are being planned for the county and voice your opinions.

February 25—Public Forum—7-9:00PM Macomb County Trailways Master Plan—Camp Rotary at Wolcott Mills Metropark, Ray Twp. See what trailways are being planned for the county and voice your opinions.

March 3—Public Forum—7-9:00PM Macomb County Trailways Master Plan—Clinton Macomb Public Library 40900 Romeo Plank. See what trailways are being planned for the county and voice your opinions.

March 6—Bruce Freeberger will lead another cross country ski trip to beautiful Hanson Hills near Grayling. Call Bruce for details on this one day trip at 586-775-8838

March 14—St Patricks Day Ride—Join our own Saint Patrick and his wife Susan for this annual ride starting in downtown Mt Clemens. Call Rick Moorman at 586-792-0119 for details.

March 18 —Public Forum—7-9:00PM Macomb County Trailways Master Plan—Chesterfield Twp 47275 Sugarbush Road. See what trailways are being planned for the county and voice your opinions.

March 21 Southeast Mich Bike Feast 3:00PM: sponsored this year by the Slow Spokes Bicycle Club. It will be held at St. Germain Church in St. Clair Shores. Bob Latsko (586-939-2788) has tickets with all the particulars on the tickets. The tickets cost \$5 and will include entrance, main dishes of homemade roasted chicken and stuffed cabbage. There will be a fashion show put on by the Prestige Bicycle Store and bicycle items available. They also would like each club to have a representative do a five minute talk about their bike club including history, funny story, favorite rides, etc. Proceeds from the feast will go to the ARC Cycling program that combines the talent of a sighted Captain with an un-sighted Stoker. Bob George will be leading a optional bike ride before the feast along the shoreline, of course weather permitting. NOTE: Bob Latsko said you can call him to hold your ticket at the door.

June 4th—7th—Annual Mens Ride—Call John Tarantino at 586-677-0482 to reserve your spot for riding, carousing, and just having a good old time this year in and around Hamilton Ontario.

Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club
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FOR SALE

Trek 8000 Mtn Bike 45cm asking \$100
Call Gary Haelewyn (586-286-5094)

Trek 930 looking for a good home, call
Jeremy at Prestige Cycle 586-792-4040 or
email jpeet@Comcast.net

2004 Blue Water Ramble Chairs:

**BWR Chair Person: Still
Open—(Diane Baker 586-739-
0261 will co-chair)**

Committee Chairs

- **Food:** Tom and Sue Graham
- **SAG:** John Tarantino
- **Parking:** Jerry Pavlat
- **Cleanup:** Bill Stimpson
- **Publicity:** Bob Crowley
- **Routes:** Open
- **Ferries:** Bruce Carlson
- **Registration:** Bills Baker & Duemling

A Man of Words and Not of Deeds,
Is like a Garden Full of Weeds.

A Man of Deeds and not of Words,
Is like a Garden Full of _____
Benjamin Franklin

RECIPIES

Doug MacDermaid would like any recipies for the
upcoming *CRR Recipe Book* by the end of January.
Email your favorites to Doug at
lbrickne@wideopenwest.com or mail them to
39818 Edgemont Drive Sterling Heights, MI
48310.

A Big Red HUG goes to Diane Baker for hosting a wonderful “Red Hat” night out at her house Thursday January 26th. Diane did a great job demonstrating, guiding, and guiding again, the Red Hat ladies into creating some interesting scarf techniques. The next meeting being planned will have a “get me out of this house—NOW!!!!” theme. Call Gail Komendera 248-879-6474 for details.

Waxing Skis Courses 101 and 501 by Gary Haelewyn (101) and Bruce Freeberger (501)

So you say your cross country skis don't need wax because you have wax-LESS skis with those funny fish scales on the bottom. Well guess again folks, because even waxLESS skis need to be waxed every year unless you like to just shuffle both up and down the hills.

Fact is, both waxless and waxable skis get a "glide" wax to make them faster. Only "waxable" skis (the ones without fish scales) get the sticky wax that helps them grab the snow when going up hills.

Follow my simple Waxing 101 steps below to apply your glide wax or call me (586-286-5094) for a hands on demo.

1. Secure the skis to a base bottoms up.
2. Apply Wax Remover to a cloth and suck up the old wax off the entire ski.
3. Using an old shirt iron on a low setting, hit the iron with a stick of glide wax and let the drops fall on the tips and tails of the sky every 1 or 2 inches. Hint: Don't get it on those silly fish scales.
4. Iron the tips and tails smoothing out the wax droplets.
5. Let the skis cool outside for a few minutes.
6. Bring them back in, secure again bottoms up, and using a plastic scraper, scrape off all that wax you just ironed on. Hint: Your only taking off what the ptex ski surface couldn't absorb.
7. Using a PLASTIC pot scrubber, buff the tips and tails smooth, using elbow grease.
8. Using an old newspaper page crumbled up, buff them again.
9. Be careful going down the hills!

I pulled the following from an email I got from our old ride director Bruce Freeberger who just happens to be one of the smartest cross country ski techies I know. This applies to both Glide and Stick wax and occurred on his prior Hanson Hills trip:

"The temps were the same both days (Friday & Saturday) from the Internet reports. I tried my kick wax skis because they are supposed to work better than the plastic fish scales at very cold temps. (the packed snow becomes harder than the ptex on the ski base). I had Blue Extra over ironed in Green on the skis for grip. I didn't have a lot of grip, so I tried VR50 (similar to Special Red but with fluorocarbon to prevent icing). It made a minor improvement in the tracks, but a HUGE improvement climbing out of the tracks. There was very little moisture at +14F and I had zero problem with icing. Every time I wanted to glide the snow brushed right off the kick wax and I had super glide. Glide wax was CH4 ironed in with Toko High Flouro Dibloc paste on top"

Bicycle License Plates ?

At the February meeting, president John Tarantino, spoke of bicycle license plates being introduced in Ohio. I kept thinking of those little plates we use to hang from the back of our seats when we were kids that had our name on them. What a dumb idea I thought, another government intrusion into our lives to try and make more money.

But when I started working on this months newsletter I pulled the article John mentioned and started reading it. It appears I need to listen a little more carefully to what the Prez says at these meetings. Those plates are not "Jack" and "Jill" plates from 50 years ago. They're automobile plates! It's an actual license plate that goes on the back of your car and it says at the top OHIO Birthplace of Aviation. Under that is the normal license plate number and at the bottom is "Share the Road". Then there's a picture of a cyclist on the left side of the plate.

Awesome. But even better yet, the folks in Ohio that pushed for this plate are part of the Ohio Bicycle Federation, the same as our League of Michigan Bicyclists. They got a bill introduced in their state legislation (HB 245) that creates the "Share the Road" plate and gets \$5 from each plate sold to fund publication of a booklet called "Ohio Street Smart" which includes the Ohio Revised Code regarding bicycling. The booklet is given to motorists at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle offices where residents get their drivers licenses.

Go to www.ohiobike.org to see more information on their HB 245 and a picture of the plate.

The club is sponsoring Mike Sproul who will be attending the Chicago Bicycle Federation Conference March 18-20. Mike will learn from topics including the following:

- Designing Streets for Bikes
- Teaching Bicycling at Schools and Festivals
- Funding Sources
- Bicycling and Transit Connectors
- Crashes and the Law
- Bike Facility Design 101
- Making a Better Bike Map

More information can be found at www.BIKETRAFFIC.org/conference.html

<u>Bday</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>
03/02	Lynn	Oztalay
03/02	Mary	Mullings
03/03	Susan	Stigleman
03/03	Beth	Batten
03/04	Bryan	Smith
03/09	Ricky	Okerhjelm
03/18	Phyllis	Mottershead
03/20	Gerry	Anderson
03/26	Patti	Brehler
03/26	Pennie	Morauski
03/30	Bill	Duemling

The Rushes Are Coming, The Rushes Are Coming!!!

So what are "rushes"?

Rushes are what you have to do get a new club jersey or pair of club shorts.

Sandy Overway (586-781-8315) will be placing an order for club jerseys and shorts in slim relaxed (not baggy, not pro-fit) from sizes small to XXXL. Shorts will cost around \$36, while jerseys will be around \$43. It will be decided at the March meeting whether or not the club will subsidize any of the cost.

Please call Sandy **before** the March meeting to place your order.

And a belated 50 to Linda Dahlke on February 11.

REMINDER

Next year's slide show will be created by Doug Macdermaid. Doug is asking members to send him pictures of club activities throughout the year. Contact Doug at (586-939-4670). You can also email your digitized pictures to Doug at: lbrickne@wideopenwest.com

Also, Doris Mulligan would like to hear any amusing stories about our members throughout the year. You can either mail them to her at 26450 Crocker #1212 Harrison Twp, 48045, or call Doris at (586-465-9342) and tell her the story and she will write it for you.

Rathskellar Dakota Inn A Little History

On December 26th 1953, two days after my 21st birthday, I spent my, "Rite of Passage," at the Dakota Inn Rathskeller. This is Detroit's good old Tavern now celebrating its 70th year in business. It is now run by the grandson of the founder, Karl Kurz, also Karl.

To be allowed entrance I had to have three pieces of I.D and then sign an affidavit that none of the I.D. had been tampered with. Owner Karl Kurz would stand behind a velvet rope and decide when or whether he would admit you to the inner sanctum. The popularity of this Tavern is centered around singing to the accompaniment of a pianist. In those days, the age of Radio, seemingly everyone knew a great variety of popular songs that dated back many decades.

The popularity continued unabated thru the middle 60's when many of the patrons came from nearby U of D and Wayne State as well as many locals from the largely German neighborhood.

Those times have long since passed as the local population moved to the suburbs. These days current owner, Karl Kurz has to depend on special events featuring Oompah Bands to fill the house.

The interior architecture is unique with archway in which murals are painted depicting life in old Germany as well as the nonsense song, The Schnitzlebank occupying the center of the wall in the main room. There are more Beer Steins of all sizes on shelves and in cabinets then can possibly be counted as well as heads of deer and elk spread around the walls of the Main room.

This has been the location of, for me, 50 years of free entertainment and hopefully will be for many years to come.

**TJ Hill
Fraser Michigan**

The "Third Thursday" of every month is a song theme night where the piano players bring in tunes with a specific theme. You're sure to spot TJ there, stein in hand and voice booming aloud.