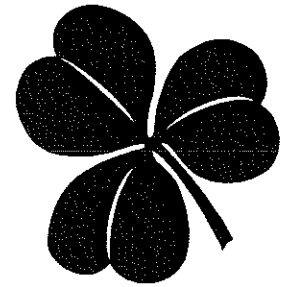


The "RAMBLER"
Newsletter for the
Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club

March 2004



Spring is Just around the corner

As I prepare this month's newsletter, it's raining outside, the temperature today is suppose to hit 68 degrees and I'm getting ready to go up north skiing this afternoon. Ah, March in Michigan. It's the time of year where one sport seems to end and another starts a new beginning. And speaking of beginnings, this time of year is a great time to get your bike ready for the riding season. Local bike shops are a little slow right now so why not beat the rush and get your machine in for a tune-up.

Congratulations Julie Windhorst for winning this year's Golden Toilet-Plunger award for her best voted chili at the 4th annual CRR Chili Cookoff, hosted this year by Bill and Diane Baker.

Also, Bruce Carlson submitted the winning BWR 2004 T-Shirt design. Two of Bruce's designs made it to the final round of voting at the March meeting.

And finally, not being one to pass around gossip, (although it's part of my job description), I've heard through the grapevine that some tandem captains are planning on making February 29th the official "Stoker Appreciation Day". A formal proposal might get submitted at the April meeting. Wonder if there will be any discussion?

Gary Haelewyn—Editor

Bill & Annette Smith—Publishers

The Prez Sez.....

I want to thank all the club members for the support they gave me this past month. My sister had cancer and passed away at 43 years old. We received cards and many people kept us in their prayers.

Please keep Rich Dyer in your prayers as he suffered a stroke. From what I know he should be going home this week. It will take some time for him to recover. Give him a call or send a card. Support from club members is very important.

Speaking of club members....Have you sent your renewal in yet??? I can't believe in the month of March we have to remind people to renew!! Fifty families still haven't renewed their membership yet. If you don't send it in by March 15, you won't receive an April newsletter.

A new riding season is approaching very soon and I want to remind everyone to follow the rules of the road. Riding on the road is serious business and we need to respect that!!

Thank you and ride safe, John Tarantino, President

March 2004						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Hanson Hills
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 St Pat's Rice	15	16	17	18 Public Forum	19	20
21 BIKE FEAST	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

HOTLINE
586-819-0222

WEEKLY EVENTS

CHANGES
Bill Baker 586-739-0261

(Press 1 for latest info)

CRRrides@wideopenwest.com

- 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 (Toepfer & Gratiot) for a 14-16mph 25-30 mile ride to Windmill Pointe. Breakfast follows.
- 9:00 AM** NOTE: TJ Hill will be in Florida for the Wolverine Training Camps until end of April
- Sundays 9:00AM**
- 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???

April 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 CLUB MEET	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Clean-Up S/C Ride
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 14—Band Concert—Ed Gostin's band, High Society, will be playing a concert from 2:00 to 3:00 at the main branch of the Clinton - Macomb Public Library, in the same room that club meetings are held. The music will be all instrumental pop, jazz, and big band tunes from the 20's through the 60's. The band is a four piece featuring sax, bass, drums, and Ed on guitar. Call Ed at 586 -939-6107 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 home-made 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 unsighted 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.

April 17—Stoney Creek—Call John Tarantino 586-677-0482 for details on participating in the annual Stoney Creek Earthday Cleanup party. John is planning on doing the cleanup at the park, then going for a ride and returning to the park for the free lunch.

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. **John has 16 men signed up to date and 3 drivers. He's looking for one more driver. Over nights will be at the Village Inn with the usual men's "amenities".**

August—Bill Stimpson is planning a Roseville to Raleigh NC sagged trip. Call Bill at 586-899-4763 for details.

It's getting hard to find a good printer for this newsletter. Check out the postmark.

Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club
Officers

President: John Tarantino 586-677-0482
redtandom@aol.com
Ride Director: Bill Baker 586-739-0261
CRRrides@wideopenwest.com
Treasurer: Marilyn Tarantino 586-677-0482
redtandom@aol.com
Secretary: T.J.Hill 586-293-0162
tjbiker@juno.com
Editor: Gary Haelewyn 586-286-5094
bluecyclist@yahoo.com
Publisher: Bill & Annette Smith 248-652-2278
bsmith02@comcast.net
Sunshine: Julie Windhorst 586-939-6073
redtandem@todaylink.com
Legislative Liaison: Mike Sproul

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

Birthdays

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

<u>Day</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>
04/02	Rick	Jones
04/07	Will	Lajack
04/10	Randall	Angell
04/11	Dorothy	Smith
04/15	Robert	Blanchard
04/22	Sandy	Mastay
04/26	Scott	McGovern
04/26	Christine	Moale
04/27	Becky	Holden

Club Jerseys and Shorts are coming!

It was decided at the March meeting, the club will subsidize \$20 towards the \$43 cost of club jerseys for club members only. There is a limit of 2 per household per year. Club shorts, which will not receive the subsidy, will cost \$35.25. Long Sleeve jerseys and club jackets will be ordered in April for delivery sometime in August. Call Sandy Overway at 586-781-8315 for more information.

From our Ride Director,....

Is There An Award In Your Future?

You must be a member as of June 1 to be eligible for the 2004 awards. You must participate as a worker for the BWR either prior to or on the day of the ride. You must participate in at least 20 club functions. Your name must be legible on the sign in sheets please print! The cycling period runs from December 1, 2003 to November 2004. (Date will be determined based on banquet date)

Mileage Awards:

You are self monitored. Submit your miles ridden YTD totals at least 4 times during the year via club meeting, phone, email or regular mail to Bill Baker. 10% of total miles must come from club rides, which include club invitational and all club rides on the hotline, CRRList email or the newsletter.

Participation Awards:

They are based on the point system from the club sign in sheets:

5 points- Club Officers

4 points- BWR Chairs

3 points-Club Ride Leaders

1 point-each club ride, club event, club meeting or invitational ride sign in sheet

Youth Awards:

Awards are determined by age categories 15-18, 11-14, 10 and under, as of June 1, 2004. You are self monitored. Submit your miles ridden YTD totals at least 4 times during the year via club meeting, phone, email or regular mail to Bill Baker, Ride Director.

Commuter Awards:

The program is self monitored. Keep track of the number of days you commute to work. Submit your miles ridden YTD totals at least 4 times during the year via club meeting, phone, email or regular mail to Bill Baker.

Ride to Eat and Eat to Ride,... The CookBooks are HERE !!!

That old adage is apparently very true in this club. Doug MacDermaid has finished compiling the new "Clinton River Riders Cookbook 2004". There are over 100 recipes in categories like Breakfast, Bread, Appetizer, Soups, Salads, Main Courses, and my favorite,... **DESERTS!!!!**. How about "Riley's Cinnamon Cheese Cake from Marilyn Tarantino which she made for the March meeting. Exceptional. Or Laurie Brickner's "Potato Soup". I had a bowl of this on the Nova Scotia ride and it was a meal in itself. To get your very own copy of this cookbook, call Doug MacDermaid at 586-939-4670 or email him at lbrickne@wideopenwest.com. Cost is \$15 with any profits being donated to ARC Cycling program.

The Eaton Rapids Public Schools Education Foundation will be holding its second "Ride for Their Future" on Saturday, May 8, 2004. This cloverleaf style ride will consist of 6, 17, 31, and 62 mile loops, each starting and ending at Eaton Rapids High School. All routes open at 7:00 AM and all riders must be on the route by 10:00 AM. The school closes at 3:00 PM, so plan your ride accordingly.

For those participants who pre-register by April 16, 2004 the cost is \$14.00 per person and \$32.00 per family. After April 16, the cost is \$19.00 per person and \$42.00 per family. You may register the day of the ride. T-shirts are available for \$6.00 (child sizes) and \$10.00 (adult sizes). A limited number will be available the day of the ride.

Lunch will be available at Eaton Rapids High School from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. From noon to 1:00 PM White Snake Marks, an XGame athlete, will be performing bike stunts in the ERHS parking lot. Bike Rally registration includes entry to this event. For those not riding but wishing to see the stunt show, the cost will be \$2.00 per person.

For more information regarding the bike rally, contact the Eaton Rapids Public Schools Education Foundation at

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.

Tracks and Velodromes, Then and Now,... by TJ Hill

Even before the first half of the last century there was a Velodrome in Detroit. It was located near Harper and Morang close to where Kavan's, Colony East is or was. Likely by 1933 the Velodrome came down and Kavan's went up. Whereas prohibition went out in August of 1933 there were more people willing to buy beer than to pay to watch a bike race on a Velodrome. Fred Cappy had come to Detroit in the 20's specifically to compete on the Velodrome, that has long since disappeared from the landscape.

For me my first track experience occurred on the U of D 1/4 mile cinder running track. This was the early 50's. Each year there was a Fireman's Field Day celebration that was held at U of D. Mike made arrangements with the organizers for a series of bike races to be run on the track. We used very low gears so as to look like we were going fast and still be able to negotiate the turns at speed. The race winner would be agreed on before the start so that we didn't get carried away with the competition and crash. Our starting arrangement was decided on prior to the, so-called, race. At some point Mike decided that I should move to a different position. My holder/pusher was a member of the Detroit tug of war team. When Mike indicated the move my pusher picked up, me and bike, and moved to the position Mike indicated.

There had been much talk with the City of Detroit in getting a Velodrome built. For a time when Detroit was in the thick of the bidding for the 1952 Olympic Games it seemed possible that this might come to pass. Detroit lost out to Helsinki Finland and the impetus for the city to erect a Velodrome disappeared. Fred Cappy then took up the challenge and built a Velodrome that was located outside the

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Tracks and Velodromes, Then and Now,... (continued)

city at 11 Mile Road and Ryan. At that time that location was the boondocks as at that time Detroit had not expanded much north of 8 Mile Road. The Velodrome was small, 11 laps to the mile. The surface was what we called beaver-board. The framework was mainly angle iron. The turns were banked 68 degrees.

For me the most memorable event was when I took a ride on a road tandem on the track with Gene Diggs as my stoker. We hadn't gone many laps when the chain derailed. We were in the straight when the chain came off. I went down onto the flat boards then tried to stay there as we went into the turn. Our speed was too great so I made a right turn and went straight up the track until our momentum ran out. We then flipped onto our right side and slid to the bottom.

Jim Smith had a much more harrowing experience when he was riding the track before the top rail had been erected. He must have been watching the rider below him oblivious to the fact that he was at the top of the track. He went over the top and landed on the ground between various foundation pieces that could have ended his career as well as his life. Well Jim survived that incident and we had the pleasure of his company for another 50 years or so.

After that track passed into history we sometimes raced on various car tracks. Motor City Speedway on 8 Mile near Schoenherr as well as the Flat Rock Speedway. A Velodrome still existed in Delhi Ontario and Karl Wettberg often competed at that facility and often teamed with Francois Mertens in Madison Racing.

In 1967 or '68 Mike began the project that would become the Dorais Velodrome located on Outer Drive and Mound Roads. The facility was finished just in time for the '69 Nationals to be held. In the same time frame when Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon, Mike stepped out on the infield of the Dorais Velodrome to return track racing to Detroit, another monumental feat by a determined individual. The Dorais Track had a useful life of approximately 20 years during which time Mike honed the talents of the many National and World Champions who gleaned the benefits of his cycling knowledge.

By the 90's that track surface had deteriorated to the point it was good only for BMX trick riding. Once again Detroit was without a Velodrome. Back in the mid 70's there were two six day races put on at velodromes that were erected for that purpose. In '72 the track was in the State Fair Coliseum. The race had three men teams and the racing was for three hours each night. The winning team was the team of Roger Young, Dale Vergauan and Ron Skarin, two Detroiters and a Californian. In '74 there was a Velodrome erected in Cobo arena. The race was administered by the Van Laken and DeVos families, that were associated with the Cadieux Café.

About that time Dale Hughes emerged onto the cycling scene and along with three partners built a 125-Meter portable board track that would fit inside most ice arenas. For a short time it was in Warren on Chicago Road and then in Southfield in their arena. A six-day was held in that location. I don't recall if Roger Young won that particular event but he was certainly prominent in all the action.

Dale took that track to various locations around the country including California where a movie was filmed that starred Julie Andrews and Walter Matthau and was titled, "Little Miss Marker." The movie was a flop but important to the cycling community was that a 17-year old Greg LeMond was one of the participants.

Around 1995 Dale was contacted by the U.S. Olympic organizing committee and given the contract to build the Velodrome for the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta. The Velodrome was erected in Stone Mountain Park east of Atlanta. Once the games actually began, the track was a complete success, with World or Olympic records set all across the spectrum of the racing. When the games were over the Velodrome was dismantled and was purchased by Disney who then stored it in a warehouse in the Orlando area. There it stayed for many years unassembled until Montreal managed to buy it a year or so ago.

And now we arrive at the current era when the Velodrome at Bloomer Park began its life. It certainly seemed far-fetched that a Velodrome could be built with donations from the cycling community and volunteer labor. Dale Hughes was the designer and chief of construction as well. Seldom has anyone put in as much labor physical as well as mental to keep the project on track. In May 2001 the track opened for racing, or was that 2002? Anyway it is a dream realized and I'm sure that Mike Walden must be resting easy with a smile as wide as a mile to see this facility become a reality.