

Officers

President

John Tarantino
586-677-0482
Redtandom@aol.com

Ride Director

Bill Baker
586-739-0261
CRRrides@wideopenwe
st.com

Treasurer

Marilyn Tarantino

Secretary

Tom Hill
586-293-0162
Tjbiker@juno.com

Editor

Gary Haelewyn
586-286-5094
Bluecyclist@yahoo.com

Publishers

Bill & Annette Smith
248-652-2278
Bsmith02@comcast.com

Sunshine

Julie Windhorst
586-939-6073
Weetandem@yahoo.com

Legislative Liaison

Mike Sproul

BWR Chair

Jim Crawford

Librarian

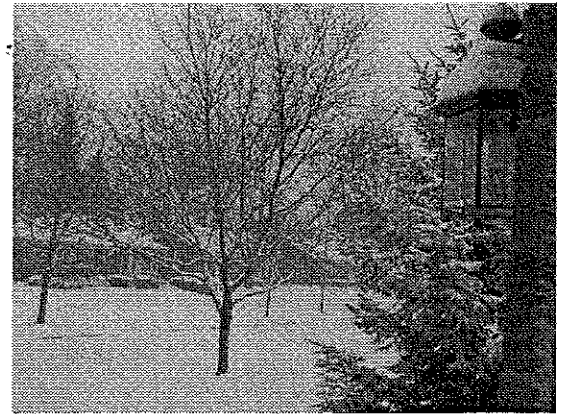
Bruce Freeburger

The "RAMBLER"

December 2004

Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club

Happy
Holidays !!!



'Tis the season,... to be jolly, like our club's secretary who has decided to "circumnavigate the sun" but not on his mountain bike,... to be silent, like a biker that speaks through a baker,... to be grateful, for a service from the

be merry, like our publishers who may not have to lick so many stamps each month, and,... to be square, and dance the night away. So find out what makes this season so special by looking inside this month's newsletter.

Hoppy Halidays, Gary Haelewyn

We had a great evening!!!! Thanks to all who helped with the fitting of the bike helmets for the "Bikes for Kids, the Variety Charity. This year the Clinton River Riders donated 5 bikes, helmets and locks to the children, in total 150 were given out to children in need. We had a great time, also feasting on pizza, hot dogs, pop, ice cream, candy and watching Channel 7 News, interview with Diana Lewis, daughter Glenda Lewis, with Dre' Bly (Detroit Lions player) and enjoying the interaction that the "Yak" from the Detroit Free Press had with the children, (both big and small) Thanks Clinton River Riders for all your help, these kids really had a wonderful evening and hopefully will wear their helmets whenever riding their new bikes. :}

Sheila & Rick Jones

WANTED: The club is looking for a sports clothes buyer. Position has great hours but lousy pay, lots of freedom but tight schedules. Expert training provided. Must be able to lift a few lbs once a month. Contact Sandy Overway (586-781-8315) for more information.

December 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Club Meeting	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Awards-Banquet	18
19	20	21	22 Dakota Inn 7:30	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

HOTLINE

586-819-0222

(Press 1 for latest updates)

WEEKLY RIDES

CHANGES

Call Bill Baker, Ride Director
586-739-0261
CRRrides@wideopenwest.com

1st Monday

MONDAYS

Club Meeting, Mt Clemens Library (downstairs), 150 Cass Ave, just west of southbound Gratiot on the North side of Cass across from Mt Clemens High School.

6:00 PM

THURSDAYS

LIGHTS REQUIRED

Meet Bill and Bill at Prestige Cycles, Moravian & Garfield, 2 hour ride to unknown destinations at 13-15 MPH.

9:00 AM

FRIDAYS

Call Bill and Annette Smith for 35 to 60+ mile long rides to different locations at a pace of 14 to 16 MPH with a breakfast stop. Call Bill or Annette 248-652-2278 or email them bsmith02@comcast.net.

9:00 AM

SATURDAYS

Meet Jane Bernard for the Schultz Funeral Home Ride at 9:00AM at Toepfer (8-1/2Mile) and Gratiot for a 30-35 mile, 14-16mph ride with breakfast or lunch after the ride. Goes every Saturday through the winter unless it's raining at the start location, or the roads are icy. NOTE: NO RIDE XMAS DAY OR NEW YEARS DAY.

9:00 AM

Meet TJ Hill at the West Branch Parking Lot for a 50 miles of Mountain biking. Lunch will be in Lake Orion around the 30 mile mark.

9:00 AM

SUNDAYS

Meet TJ Hill at the Stoney Creek Boat Launch for more for Mountain biking to unknown destinations at the pace of the slowest rider for a distance to be determined.

Membership dues are coming up, application is included with this newsletter.

January 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Cadieux
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Dance
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Note: Send newsletter ride changes and/or additions to BLUECYCLIST@YAHOO.COM

December 17, Friday night, Awards Banquet, Ukranian Cultural Center 26601 Ryan Rd, Warren, between I-696 and 11 Mile, Cocktails 6:30 (Cash bar—soft drinks and juice) Dinner served at 7:30. Menu: Family Style dinner, Salad with house dressing, rolls, Homemade chicken soup with Egg Drop noodles, Entrée's: Roast Turkey Breast with dressing and cranberry sauce / Mostaccioli with marinara sauce (meatless), green beans with almonds, rosemary roasted potatoes, Dessert: Cheesecake with strawberries, coffee, tea and milk included. Questions: Call Julie Windhorst (586-939-6073)

December 22, Meet TJ Hill at 17324 John R between McNichols and 7 Mile Rd, 7:30PM, lights required, must wear a club jersey or you'll be much appreciated.

Jane-uary 1st, Meet Jane Bernard and many Wolverines, at the Cadieux Café, Cadieux between East Warren and Mack, 12:00PM for ride of undetermined miles and speed, although Jane will keep an eye on you.

January 17th, Square Dance, St.Malachy 14115 14 mile rd. Sterling Hgts. East of Schoenherr, North off of 14 Mile. Tickets are \$37 per coupe. Call Art Meerhaeghe 586-268-7465 for details.

Birthdays

Bday First Last Name

01/02 Denis Kosen
01/03 Len Redmond
01/06 Dave Baker
01/07 Karen Redmond
01/11 Debbie Angst
01/13 Marilyn Tarantino
01/17 Frank Mottershead
01/19 Shelley Buchler
01/20 Denny Carlson
01/21 Michael Freeman
01/21 Karen Warner
01/23 Cathy Osip
01/26 Chuck Maxwell
01/29 Joyce Dzuris
01/31 Pat Finnell

Club Cookbooks are still available for \$10. To order, call Julie Windhorst (586-939-6073)

Prez Whispers,.....

My vocal cord problem doesn't seem to be getting any better. This may go on for months or even a year. I don't feel it is fair for Bill Baker to have to take my spot for that long.

I believe it is time for someone else to take over as president. The past five years has been very enjoyable for me. A new person will bring new ideas which is very important for any club. This club needs to keep moving forward and I hope someone will step up.

It has been a lot of fun and we learned many things. We need to find a **new treasurer and president**. Marilyn & I plan on being active with this club and we are willing to help new board members any way we can.

Thanks to all,
John Tarantino

"Sierra to the Sea" is a scenic and challenging 8-day bicycle and camping tour through Northern California, June 18 to 25, 2005. Starting in the historic Mother Lode country of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the tour traverses the Sacramento and Napa Valleys, passes down the Pacific Coast, crosses the Golden Gate Bridge and concludes at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. It's a great way to explore California.

The basic tour route is approximately 420 miles long and averages 60 miles per day for each of seven cycling days. It is challenging and designed for experienced riders. Some less strenuous route options are provided, as well as options for riders who wish greater challenges. Sierra to the Sea is organized by the Almaden Cycle Touring Club of San Jose, a not-for-profit organization whose Tierra Bella Century has, for over twenty-five years, been one of the most respected and successful rides of its kind in California. Registration opens Monday, January 17, 2005, and we usually fill up in two to three weeks. Visit us at <http://sierratothesea.org/> for more information and to register online.

At the November meeting it was decided to move forward with putting the newsletter on the internet. This will enable the club to save on postage and printing. If however, you want your newsletter to be mailed via the post office to your home address please write at the bottom of your application **"HARD COPY"** and we will mail your newsletter to you.

A Holiday Message about The Real Rambo

While on assignment in Columbus, Ohio on a cool, rainy evening in late October I decided to visit a couple of local bike shops to get a handle on some of the local club road bike rides as I had brought down my faithful Trek. I was quite familiar with the local routes having lived in Columbus from 1972-1979. The riding was mostly quite easy in the Columbus area UNLESS you went to the southeast where there was a price to be paid as this is the land of the Columbus Fall Challenge. I was in no mood for that punishment.

At the 2nd bike shop the ride schedule for the Columbus Outdoor Pursuits (COP) was posted. They are now the largest club in the Eastern USA and rank #2 in total membership in the USA right after the big bike club in Seattle, WA. With over 4,000 members COP has several rides each day. The bike shop owner knew most of the routes and the ride leaders. It was explained that COP has the distinction of having the oldest ride leader in the USA and maybe the world for that matter. I must admit that I knew of this individual when I lived in Columbus but never had the opportunity to meet him as he lived on the opposite side of the city from me. I thought he passed away years ago.

The bike shop owner explained that Dick Stewart could be found in the afternoons at Westerville N. High School where he tutored students in physics and math. So, 2 days later I went over there, obtained a pass from the office, and found the physics lab. His Trek mountain bike was sitting in the hall. There were about six (6) students doing a coefficient of friction experiment under his direction. Afterwards, Dick Stewart explained that he previously taught in this school system and started bicycle commuting to the school in 1929 but stopped in 1941 due to a "little European assignment." He retired from teaching 36 years ago and began riding seriously!! He is the ride leader for Tuesday and Thursday morning rides that meander for 25 total miles at about a 12 mph pace. He said his hearing has been gone since February 1945 and his balance is not so good so he slowed down a bit and just recently switched from a road bike. He informed that he has been leading club rides since 1960, the year his friends developed the route to Portsmouth, Ohio that we know today as TOSRV. Based on some other dates he tossed out, I computed the math which said he is 98 years old. He confirmed that his goal is to lead club rides at the age of 100. It was then that I noticed the two (2) very unusual bronze and gold medallions on a gold chain around his neck. The only other time I had seen either of them was in a magazine, National Geographic. He took them off and allowed me to hold them and I can tell you it was just too much for me to bear and I truly broke down completely. Let me explain this.

But, there is an entirely different side of Dick Stewart that you have to know about as you go into this holiday season. On the cold, snowy night of December 24, 1944, Lt. Col. Dick "Rambo" Stewart gathered together the last remaining 1,000 men of the 2nd brigade 101st Airborne Division and told them this would be their finest hour. At the start of D-Day in June 1944, Dick Stewart and 18,000 other 101st Airborne dropped into Normandy to provide security and protection for the people coming from the landings at Omaha Beach. At the start of operation Market Garden in Sept. 1944 the 101st Airborne was down to 9,000 men but now there were only 1,000 able bodied remaining in Dec. for this was the Battle of the Bulge outside Bastogne, Belgium and they were surrounded. For four (4) days and nights these remaining officers and soldiers under Lt. Col. Stewart's direction and leadership held the German V Corps Panzer Army at bay taking thousands of prisoners and reversing the course of the battle. They were relieved by Gen. Patton on the morning of Dec. 29 whose 3rd Army came from south France. Lt. Col. Stewart refused to be relieved despite having 3 fingers shot off his left hand and was field promoted to Colonel by Gen. Patton. In Jan. 1945, he was hit again in multiple locations by artillery fire at the Rhine.

At the end of February 1945 on a muddy bank on the Rhine River as severely wounded Col. Stewart was getting in a boat and preparing to lead another night raid across the Rhine, a British XXIII Corps 4 star field General officer (Horrocks) and heavily armed security staff came through the outer security perimeter

unannounced having come all the way nonstop from HQ in France in massively armed vehicles and told Col. Dick Stewart to get the 101st Airborne out of the boats, rapidly increase the intensity of the 105 fire across the Rhine toward the German positions, wipe off his uniform, and clean his shoes for important visitors were less than 25K away in a division sized relief armored column. He was requested to find and assemble the company of his last 150 original D-Day members of the 101st Airborne. Several armored cars arrived, some bearing flags with five (5) stars and Horrocks told Col. Stewart to get rid of the cigar and stand up at attention, something he could not do due to back and chest wounds. In the near darkness and not hearing any of the specific words spoken because of permanent deafness and partial blindness caused by the ongoing heavy 105 artillery and tank gunfire barrage at the Rhine, Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton, McAuliffe, Horrocks and Montgomery got out of those vehicles and awarded to "Rambo Stewart" the highest awards for courage and valor, the Medal of Honor and Knight of the British Empire. Written citations signed by Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were read, presented, and returned to the USA. He was field promoted to general on that night by order of Gen. G. Marshall and relieved of command at the same time. He had been a combat commander all across N. Africa, Sicily, and Europe without any relief or rest. As you might suspect, General Stewart is last remaining WW II veteran to meet and know all those historic figures.

Now there is a holiday message in all of this from General Dick Stewart which he asked me to relay. So whenever you are down on your bicycle luck and you feel you cannot turn the pedals even one more revolution, take a very deep breath, and give a thought to those from December 1944 and then turn the pedals and push on being sustained by the great effort that went before to give us a great present-our freedom.

May you all have a joyous holiday season and ride on, my dear friends in the CRR.

Al Barton

Circumnavigation of the Sun Celebration Number 72

Whereas this will be the 72nd Anniversary of my arrival in Detroit at 4032 Joy Road and whereas the year was 1932 and the date was December 24th, I was a victim of bad timing on the part of my parents. During my first 49 years I never had a Birthday Party. I felt deprived so for my 50th year I organized my own. It was held at the Dakota Inn Rathskeller in Detroit and was a rousing success. Such a celebration has become the tradition since that time. This year will mark the 22nd Anniversary of my 50th Birthday Party.

The party will be Wednesday December 22nd at 7:30 or thereabout. As has also become the tradition, Charlie Taylor will be playing for our entertainment. Charlie will be singing all those wonderful Irish Beer Drinking songs that I love so well.

There is one rule concerning your presence and that is you are required to wear Bike clothing. Club Jersey or other jersey. The penalty for non-compliance will be a round of beer for the house. It is mandatory that you do not bring any presents. The only present I require is your presence.

Having been born in the first third of the last century I had the good fortune to grow up in Detroit when Detroit was a wonderful place in which to grow up. So join me at the Dakota Inn and we will celebrate Detroit, Stroh's and all the good times of days gone by, while enjoying the moment and planning for good times in the future. Added note for my non-biking friends, Dress code does not apply however if you have U of M or MSU stuff you could wear that sort of thing.

TJ Hill, bicycle aficionado

Thanksgiving Eve

Have you ever wondered why we talk of and celebrate Christmas Eve and New Year Eve and yet nothing is ever said about Thanksgiving Eve? Now then what with Thanksgiving being a strictly arbitrary date on the calendar why does it have to be on the 4th Thursday of the month? I suppose this was some particular quirk of Franklin Delano Roosevelt along with his naming the Star Spangled Banner our National Anthem. I suppose the only good thing about Thanksgiving being on a Thursday is that the UAW then negotiated post Thanksgiving Friday as a day off for the autoworkers. Of course if you are not an autoworker it doesn't help much. Wouldn't it be better if Thanksgiving were on a Friday so everyone could have a three day weekend holiday?

Then of course we could just follow the Canadians and have Thanksgiving on the Second Monday in October. By doing that, merchants would be ecstatic, as it would add a lot of shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Another benefit would be for all the scantily clad ladies in bands across the usually frozen north, as a date in early October is far more likely to have amicable weather than the 4th Thursday of November.

Speaking of weather, here in southeast Michigan the gales of November have arrived on this Thanksgiving Eve and I had to go Skating to get in my minimum daily requirement of aerobic activity. Dave dot Kom and I got in about an hour of pseudo speed skating before the ice was cleared of skaters and the Zamboni came out and resurfaced. When that was finished the floodgates were opened and the youngsters who have Thanksgiving Eve off were let out onto the ice. Thus ended our peace and tranquility, as we were then faced with playing dodgem rather than doing large elliptical laps. We skated between 11:30 and 12:10 before calling off our session before we became victims of the dodgem kids and found ourselves horizontal on the ice with who knows what damage to our frail Senior Citizen bodies.

Now then to get back to Thanksgiving Eve and celebrations, there is one place I know of where Thanksgiving Eve is celebrated. That place is the Dakota Inn Rathskeller in Detroit. Seemingly for all the Wednesday's before Thanksgiving since post World War II the young people of Suburbia make the trek into Detroit to celebrate their Rites of Passage by heterosexually mixing at the Dakota Inn. A fully packed and seated Dakota Inn would be about 125 people. More than double that number and you have an idea of what the crowd at the Inn is like on Thanksgiving Eve. In order for that many people to jam inside the tables are removed and replaced by small stand up tables. So there are all those bodies wedged in like sardines and each with a beer in hand. The noise level is very high and though a piano player plays, few can hear what is being played and fewer yet attempt to sing. Perhaps only the ringing of the bell and the leading of the Schnitzlebank gets the partial attention of the gathered throng. Well it is a phenomenon worth experiencing at least once in your Dakota Inn experience.

Earlier I blamed FDR for the Star Spangled Banner as our National Anthem. Now it isn't that I have anything against the words but when it comes to singing that is where the rub comes in. Only those with operatic soprano voices can hit the high notes around the, "Rockets Red Glare," and sound good while all with ordinary voices may not know enough to just lip sync that part. So nine times out of ten the song sounds horrible. This is really to bad since we have two songs that would serve perfectly well as alternate National Anthems, "America the Beautiful," as well as "God Bless America."

So far as National Anthems go Canada got that right as well as the date of Thanksgiving. As for the song whoever the composer is he composed a song that can be sung by ordinary people with ordinary voices and sound reasonably good, unlike the Star Spangled Banner.

In closing let me say I hope you don't think I am serious about any of these criticisms or proposed changes in dates, as being among the non working population, "I don't give a dam you see."

Perhaps the only reason I wrote this dribble is because the, "the Gales of November have come early," and I didn't get in any bike miles today. How sad, too bad, your Dad.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club

Make check payable to:
 Clinton River Riders
 Mail to: 36558 Moravian
 Clinton Township MI 48035

\$12.50 Individual (over 18)
 \$15.00 Family

New Member Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Yes, please add me to your list of active volunteers who help promote bicycling at the local, state, and federal level. I understand I may be called upon on occasion to write a letter or attend a meeting supporting bicycles as a legitimate mode of transportation.

Family Names _____ Birthdate _____

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY,
 ASSUMPTION OF RISK,
 AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT
 ("AGREEMENT")

IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in The Clinton River Riders Bicycle Club ("Club") sponsored Bicycling Activities ("Activity") I for myself, my personal representatives,

assigns, heirs, and next of kin:
 1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of Bicycling Activities and that I am qualified to participate in such Activity. I further acknowledge that the Activity will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the activity and upon which the hazards of traveling are to be expected. I further agree and warrant that if at any time I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.

2. FULLY UNDERSTANDING that (a) BICYCLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH ("RISK"); (b) these risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the activity, the condition in which the activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW; (c) there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at the time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS AND DAMAGES I incur as a risk of my participation in the Activity.

3. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Club, their respective administrators, directors, agents, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the activity takes place (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein), FROM ALL LIABILITY CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE RESCUE OPERATION.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE NOT WITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Signature _____	Date _____
Signature _____	Date _____
Signature _____	Date _____

(All riding members must sign)



Gary Haelewyn
 41706 Merrimac
 Clinton Twp MI 48038

Gary Haelewyn
 41706 Merrimac
 Clinton Twp, MI 48038-2276

