



BBC Newsletter – March 29, 2008

Editor – Greg Mongold

Bloomington Bicycle Club: <http://bloomingtonbicycleclub.org/>
Co-Presidents Jennifer Miers and Mark Napier

First Club Ride of 2008:

Over 20 riders came to the first ride of the 2008 season on March 1. Mike Finger led the way on



this beautiful day. A few more riders joined in after the photo below was taken close to the 11:00 a.m. start. This ride goes north out Kinser Pike past Bloomington HS North crossing the highway and then down the hill to Bottom Road and some new-last-year pavement which helped us ride more quickly past the same-old-smell sewage treatment plant. The title of the ride “Muscatatuck and Beyond” confused me (Greg) because I think of the 7700 acre Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge near Bedford. Our local Muscatatuck is actually a separate 78 acre wetlands parcel along Bottom Road called the Muscatatuck Restle Unit that is

part of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge. A photographer who was there at the observation platform took some photos of the “riding” wildlife as we rode past. The full route was 33 miles with some climbing to get from the “bottom” back to the top a few different times.

Winter Banquet

That evening, most of these 20 riders were joined by another 60 or 70 for a capacity crowd at the Winter Banquet at the Cascades Golf Course clubhouse. After we dined on the great food catered by Autumn McCoy and crew outgoing President Allan Edmonds conducted his last BBC business meeting which included amending our club by-laws to allow co-presidents and we then voted in our new co-presidents Jennifer Miers and Mark Napier. We then heard about the grants awarded this year and Dave Tanner’s Race Across AMerica.



BBC Grant Recipients:

Jennifer talked about the grants that the BBC has awarded this year and introduced four recipients who were able to come to the banquet and talk to us and thank us. One of the grant recipients was the Y-Tri Summer Camp Program. From the application: “Y-Tri campers...explore...bicycling and how it is incorporated into the sport of Triathlon and everyday activity.” (Last year) “The campers learned how to do simple, yet very important bike repairs (2 days of interactive repair activities). Every week, they also went through bike safety

programming. There were three specific “out on the road” safety rides that took their learning and activities to the next level. With a primary focus on the bicycle portion of camp this year, campers were able to focus on bicycle maintenance and safety items. the main purpose of the



Y-Tri camp project is to expose more and more youth to good, healthy lifetime activities such as biking, running, swimming, and ultimately, triathlon. The outcome is to create the interest and adoption of healthy lifestyle activities, nutritional values, and safety issues in order to help decrease the probability of sedentary youth...”

Another grant recipient was the Children’s Therapy Clinic (CTC) at the Bloomington

Hospital for their *Expanding Biking Our Way to Health One Wheel at a Time* program.

...Throughout the year, up to 20 children with special needs and their families will have access to a specially-adapted tricycle through the lending program. These bikes will expand the bike loaner program which was established through a 2006-07 Bloomington Bicycle Club, Inc. grant which funded three adapted tricycles. If funded, this will bring the total number of Bloomington Bicycle Club cycles in the lending program to ten. In the photo at right is one of the youngsters in the program. Quoting from the grant application: “Jared is a 10 year old who has decreased strength, balance and endurance and has never been able to ride a regular bike. He was so excited to get his new bike that he rode it for 2 hours as soon as he got home! Over the course of several weeks Jared had increased his strength and endurance enough that he was finally able to ride his adult tricycle up the hill in his driveway without having to get off and push it...”



In his heartfelt thank you for the BBC support of the deCycles program for introducing young people to the world of long distance bicycling tours, BBC member Norm Houze of the journey of the spirit that the DeCycles riders make.
<http://www.decyclesindiana.org/>

The Bloomington Bicycle Project was another grant recipient and a gentleman by the name of “Homefire” spoke about the project and thanked us for our support.

Dave Tanner and RAAM 2008 AND summer 2009 too!

Next we were entertained by BBC member Dave Tanner and his friend, Jeff Stephens (director of sales and marketing of last year’s RAAM), as they shared stories and photos from last year’s

Race Across America. The enthusiasm that both shared for the event was wonderful to see even as their stories describe it as both one of the most exhilarating fun things one could do while at the same time being one of the most difficult and craziest things one could do. One of the photos showed a sleep-deprived Dave as he was sitting up, but sleeping, at a table with his head “melting” into his hand.



Dave will be riding again this year with a new team, Team TherAplay, to raise funds for The Children’s TherAplay Foundation, Inc. TherAplay is an Indianapolis-based rehabilitation clinic that integrates horses as a therapy tool. The therapists, volunteers and staff at TherAplay help children who are faced with a variety of challenges, including cerebral palsy, autism and muscular dystrophy. They treat children regardless of their families’ ability to pay. www.childrenstheraplay.org/RAAM/home.htm

Jeff and Dave were pleased to announce that RAAM will come through Bloomington this year and official time station 38 will be in the small parking lot next to ONB (Old National Bank) at the corner of 3rd and the bypass at the mall. If I understand correctly, Jeff lobbied hard (and successfully) to have the route come through Bloomington to the home of the Little 500 and “Breaking Away.”

Fellow BBC member Joe Schroeder has agreed to be the captain in charge of running time station #38 and he recently sent out an email explaining what happens at the time station and soliciting BBC volunteers to help. Quoting Joe’s email: *“This race is 24/7 and they will be coming through Bloomington from June 14 to June 18. The time station will consist of a canopy tent, a table or two, chairs, lap top with wi-fi, leader board, water, ice, drinks, snacks, etc. Most important will be wild and bicycle crazy volunteers from BBC. The time station will be manned when the racers are coming through, so volunteers will be on-call based on when the racers roll through the previous time stations (Sullivan,IN). The time station is where the crews MUST call RAAM Headquarters, so they may need to borrow a cellphone or be directed to a pay phone (gas station at 3rd & College Mall Rd). They will get race info from our leader board, logistics of facilities in the college mall area, weather forecasts and traffic info for the route east of B-Town. But most of all, they will be hungry for bicycle comraderie and cheering!”*

Monroe County Planning Department Introduces Karst Farm Greenway Phase One --by Keith Vogelsang

I attended a March 24, 2008 meeting at the Monroe County Courthouse to learn more about the proposed development of the Karst Farm Greenway. This project is envisioned as a linear park that will provide 3.6 miles of multi-use trails, connecting Karst Farm Park, Grandview Elementary School and nearby housing subdivisions to schools and developments farther north. Current plans terminate at the intersection of Loesch Road and Vernal Pike.

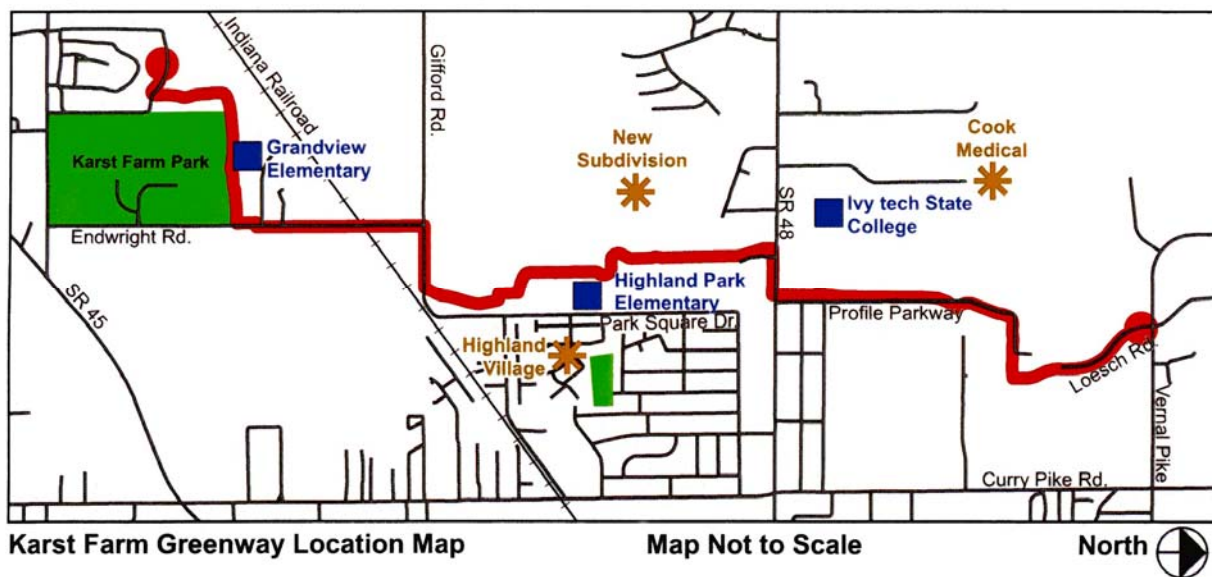
Similar to the designed use of the Clear Creek Trail in Bloomington, the Karst Farm Greenway will consist of a twelve-foot wide paved trail open only for non-motorized commuting and

recreational purposes. Monroe County Parks has received a federal grant of \$1 million to begin the project. The Karst Farm Greenway is one component of the county's overall alternative transportation and greenways plan.

The Karst Farm Greenway should be welcome news to recreational and commuting cyclists, as it will provide a safer north/south corridor from Vernal Pike to State Route 45 (via Karst Farm Park and nearby rights-of-way). Students and staff of Ivy Tech, Highland Park and Grandview Elementary Schools, and employees of Cook Medical will all benefit from the improved connectivity offered by the trail. Future plans include extending the trail north to Ellettsville and connecting with similar trails developed privately and by the City of Bloomington. Construction on the Karst Farm Greenway is anticipated to commence in 2010.

Attendees at the informational meeting were invited to ask questions and submit comments to representatives of Storrow Kinsella Associates, the landscape architects hired by the county to design and develop the project in cooperation with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc., a civil engineering firm. During the general comment period, questions about pedestrian and cyclist safety were asked regarding the planned crossing at SR 48. Another commenter asked about the county's commitment to maintenance along the finished trail. Other BBC members in attendance include Barbara Anderson, Ron Brown, and Cathy Meyer.

Persons wanting more information can contact Jason Eakin, the Monroe County Planning Assistant Director at (812) 349-2560 or jeakin@co.monroe.in.us, or visit the planning department's website at www.co.monroe.in.us/planning.



Tuesday, Thursday Fast Training Rides

Mike Finger recently announced the start of these rides: "...Most of you already know the basic idea of these rides but I'll mention a few things anyway. These are generally brisk rides that as the season progresses will show averages of 17, 18, or 19 mph. While the Saturday rides are considered no-drop rides, these evening rides are not. Everyone is welcome, of course, but some may get dropped..."

Wednesday Night Womens' Ride

Jennifer Miers will host the inaugural ride this coming Wednesday, April 2, at 6:00, at Bryan Park. She says, "We will do an out and back leaving town via Covenanter to Moore's Pike, a brief stint on the generous but somewhat gravelly 446 shoulder, to the relative safety of Knightridge Rd. Bring a light if you have one (just in case) and bring a friend."

They're everywhere! They're everywhere! Plastic Bottles

Co-Pres Jennifer asked me to share, "The number of water and Gatorade bottles we throw away at convenience stores during the course of a club ride has always bothered me. In the heat of the summer we need the refreshment and we do like to travel light but I want to encourage riders to crush those bottles and bring them home for recycling." Along these lines...

Adopt-A-Road

Jennifer spoke to this at the Winter Banquet and the time has arrived. The first cleanup for the BBC's Adopt-A-Road project is tomorrow (Sunday, March 30) from 1:30 tohopefully you saw Jennifer's recent email about the specifics. Her email said, "Parking is available in the lot of Better Way Moving and Storage but carpooling is encouraged. Follow South Walnut across 37 and look for the beige warehouse on the east side of the road. Participants must watch a brief safety video under the Adopt-A-Road link at <http://mcswmd.org> and sign a liability waiver (provided cleanup day). Children age 14 and above are welcome but parents will have to sign a release form.

To ensure adequate supplies are available, please sign up by contacting:

jenmiers2003@yahoo.com

American Handmade Bicycle Show – next year in Indianapolis !!

I'll talk about this more in another newsletter but if you are interested in custom bicycle frames in steel, carbon fiber, bamboo or whatever this is quite an event. It's been on the west coast for awhile and I haven't been but I'm very excited about the recent announcement that it would be in Indianapolis next year. To get some of the flavor go to the website and read the "daily reports links" on the left of the home page for this year's event:

<http://www.handmadebicycleshow.com/2008/>

Thanks for reading! I'm happy to write but I'm still finding my way with this newsletter. Many news items need to be shared immediately and it may yet turn out that our club is best served by the ongoing series of timely announcements from all of you without a need for a newsletter. It may be that the newsletter will need to be two times a month instead of once a month. If you have topics that you want to see in the newsletter let me know. I'll take feedback / opinions anytime.

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