

THE SPROCKET

SPRING 2025

• PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE •

Happy Birthday Southern Indiana Wheelmen

In 1975 in a small bike shop in Clarksville, the owner and bike rider, Bob Peters, started a club to encourage bicycle riding. Now, 50 years later that shop, now Clarksville Schwinn, and the bike club he founded, Southern Indiana Wheelmen (SIW), are still around and riding strong.

A lot has changed in 50 years including the bikes, the roads, and the riders. A typical bicycle in 1975 was made of steel and weighed 35 pounds or more, today they are made of aluminum, steel, carbon fiber, titanium, or a combination of these materials. A multi-gear bike might have had a 10 gear options, today they can go up to 22 gears. And, they weigh 18-26 pounds. My how things have changed.

“I’ve seen a lot of changes in fifty years,” Bob explained, “and most of them good. In the early days, only a few riders had quick release hubs, now everyone has them. I would ride in the back on group rides and carry spare tubes and wrenches in case someone got a flat. I was the only one who knew how to change a tire!” Other major innovations include Shimano Total Integration (STI) where the shifting and braking are combined on the handlebars to shift gears. “Clipless peddles have also been a great addition.” Even the rides have changed. “A long ride was 40 miles, usually an out-and-back, maybe to Deam Lake. Now a typical week might have 10 or more rides listed as 40 miles or more and the ride schedule might have 100 rides a month. It was a lot harder to ride 1,000 miles in a year back then.”

“One thing I really miss is back in the early days; the Club was more social. We would go out and eat together after a ride and hang out more. I like our picnic and the annual awards dinner but back then we were more of a family.” Now in 2025 we have the annual Florida trip, Tour of Minnesota, RAGBRAI, and other week long out of town trips. The Club, bicycles and the world have changed a lot in 50 years but the joy of riding a bicycle is still there and SIW is still riding strong. So go out and get a few miles in, and talk with your fellow riders, and maybe go out and grab a coffee or lunch together before or after a ride.

John Neichter
President

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→ GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ←

This year watch for a new Club jersey representing this milestone as well as a few oldies but goodie bike routes such as the Vatican ride back on the schedule. If you have pictures or stories you would like to share, please reach out to me.



THE SPROCKET



PHOTO GALLERY



AWARDS BANQUET



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Jim A.
Kara C.**

**John H.
Kent M.
Tabitha R.**

**Rita S.
Whitney S.**

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

Paul Beach
Brian Corbett
Ed Hatfield
Betty House
Daniel McCoy
John Neichter
David Richard

APRIL

Scott Aldridge
Ben Blackman
Teri Blackman
Don Gettelfinger
Eric Madison
Dana Mennen
John Ritz

MAY

Ann Bishop
Mary Ann Galbraith
Edward Gootee
Breanda Gutmann
Randy House
Maria Huhnerkoch
Sandra Jacobi
Malvery McKim
Donna Richard
Robnette
Rosenberger
George Wilding

JUNE

John Hamilton
Mike Jacobi
ROn McKim
Paula Weller

A WINTER AFTERNOON

I sit watching the snow glisten and not melt. A cup of coffee in my hand, thinking of nothing in particular. I'm glad to have a roof over my head and a source of heat to keep me warm. Unfortunately the computer still works and budget awaits reworking. Got to wedge the Gootee gathering cost with the bicycle trip without going too deep in the red. I thought that we might be able to save a little by driving to the Gootee gathering. The look from my wife melted the rest of the ice on the drive. Okay, we will fly.

After these little discussions that I begin too put the computer to much better use, I start looking for bike related items. Like cool little caps for the presta valve stems or top cap for the headset to make your bike unique. Or thinking about shortening my crank since research proves it will not change my output. I ponder what might need replacement due to age or some how missing part, New rear light? Helmet? (How old is that and did that last emergency dismount damage it?). Then with my enthusiasm fed, I start searching for bikes. Then search for tours to ride around on the new bike.

Reality check, I need to lose the weight from holiday feasting. Right, the bike and the trainer are set and ready. I am already subscribed to 2 indoor cycling programs. But I am not ready.

Oh! Look a squirrel! Hopping on the snow! And look at that, my coffee cup is empty.

by Ed Gootee



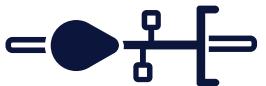
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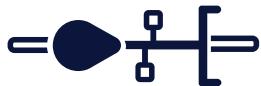
POLAR BEAR RIDE



Six brave souls ventured out for the Polar Bear ride on January First. They were treated to a warm house and meal at David Campbells' after. More club members, skipping the elements outside, joined the festivities to ring in the New Year. Thank you David for your beautiful words spoken before the meal plus making the event happen.



PLANNING MEETING



The club was well represented for the Planning Meeting on January 18 hosted by Jeanne Garrison-Young and her husband Tony. Lots of ideas and input were shared as the 2025 calendar was built. Everyone was treated to delicious soups, dishes and desserts. Big thanks to Jeanne for opening your home and the work put in to creating the Club calendar.



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PHOTO GALLERY



The 2025 SIW Florida trip started in Kissimmee Florida bringing us back to orange groves and nights spent playing Mexican Train. The trip continued in Tarpon Springs where a few new routes were explored. We were very lucky to have wonderful weather, lots of wildlife sightings and no flat tires!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Check the
Planning Calendar
attached to your email.



ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

If you are interested in submitting pictures or an article to The Sprocket Newsletter please contact Peggy Bannon at pannbann@gmail.com

JOIN IN THE FUN

If you are a bicyclist in the Southern Indiana/Louisville area and would like to ride with a great group of people with similar interests, come check us out! Just pick up a Southern Indiana Wheelmen or Slowspokes ride schedule from the Clarksville Schwinn bicycle shop. If you have any questions, please contact one of the club officers or visit our web site at www.siwheelmen.org.

Additional information on bicycling in Indiana can be found by contacting

BICYCLE INDIANA

info@bicycleindiana.org
www.bicycleindiana.org