

THE CUESheet

October 2008

The newsletter for affiliated organizations of the League of American Bicyclists



Club Profile: Folks on Spokes

Location: Matteson, IL

Current Membership: Over 200

Motto: Where do you want to go today?

Website: www.folksonspokes.com

Formed in 1977, for and by cyclists, Folks on Spokes Bicycle Club provides members with a wide variety of year round cycling activities, while making an impact on the state of cycling in the south Chicago area.

Although primarily a bicycle touring club, Folks on Spokes also does cyclist advocacy, working with local and state government agencies to insure that the needs of cyclists are considered when road improvements, trail construction and laws regarding cyclists are reviewed in their area. In addition, members are sent updates from the League of Illinois Bicyclists on any legislation that may affect their rights to the road.

The organization also keeps its members up to date on rides through its website, and through a monthly newsletter called *The Spokin' Word*.

The signature event of Folks on Spokes occurs each spring. Since 1982, they have sponsored the Easter Ride, a one-day invitational that attracts hundreds of participants from throughout the Midwest. Not content to just offer rides to its members, Folks on Spokes also organizes ski trips and hiking excursions for its members in the winter months.

MORE:

13 Businesses Honored with BFB Designation

Club Benefits to Expand in 2009

State Ambassador Program

Dates to Remember

10 New Communities Earn Bicycle Friendly Community Status

Ten new communities were recently honored with the League of American Bicyclists' prestigious Bicycle Friendly Community designation. This was the program's biggest application cycle to date — 51 communities applied for the designation. Here are the latest communities to be recognized:

GOLD	Seattle, Wash.
SILVER	Wood River Valley, Idaho
BRONZE	Arvada, Colo. Billings, Mont. Claremont, Calif. Columbia, S.C. Oceanside, Calif. Roseville, Calif. Salem, Ore. Thousand Oaks, Calif.

The League awards this four-year designation to communities that have made impressive, measurable efforts to integrate bicyclists into the community. There are four levels — platinum, gold, silver and bronze — awarded twice each year.

CLUB REP update

American Specialty Insurance is putting together a comprehensive general liability and special event insurance package for League affiliated clubs. Look for a mailing with more information soon, or check it out online.

2009 League Almanac — start thinking about the rides you want included in the League's almanac. We will be contacting you shortly requesting that information, and want to ensure that we don't leave your club out!



Bicycle Friendly Business

13 Businesses Honored with New BFB Designation

The League of American Bicyclists announced the first winners of its new Bicycle Friendly Business designation. The Bicycle Friendly Business program assists companies and organizations of all sizes in developing bicycle commuting programs and incentives for their employees and recognizes them for their efforts to promote bicycling. Thirteen businesses from

across the country — from natural food manufacturers, to planning and design firms, and independent bicycle dealers — were recognized by the League at the Interbike Expo in Las Vegas, NV.

“We are delighted to launch this exciting BFB program at Interbike and to be able to recognize the efforts of some incredible companies

— both within and outside the bicycle industry — with our first round of awards,” said League President Andy Clarke.

Congratulations to the first round of award winners.

The Bicycle Friendly Community and the Bicycle Friendly Business program is generously supported by program partners Bikes Belong and Trek's One World Two Wheels Campaign.

GOLD

Alta Planning + Design
Portland, Ore

Clif Bar & Company
Berkeley, Calif.

Landry's Bicycles
Boston, MA

Quality Bicycle Products
Bloomington, MN

SILVER

Community Cycles
Boulder, Co

Ecology Action
Santa Cruz, Calif.

REI - *Northbrook, Ill Store*

BRONZE

California Giant Berry Farms
Watsonville, CA

EasyStreet Online Services
Beaverton, OR

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
Regional Commission
Roanoke, VA

Santa Cruz Seaside
Company
Santa Cruz, CA

Urban AdvenTours
Boston, MA

Whatcom Council of
Governments,
Bellingham, WA

Club Benefits to Expand in 2009

The League is proud to announce that club and advocacy organization membership is at an all-time high, with more than 675 affiliated organizations. While we are proud of that growth, it also signals a need for the League to expand its benefit program, so that we can be sure to offer each of you new reasons to continue your relationship with us each year. Here are just a few of the new benefits you can look forward to in the coming year:

Free Membership for Club Presidents

In an effort to familiarize each club and advocacy director with the exact benefits of being a League member, we will be offering a free membership to the president of each organization. Not only will

each club president be able to keep up with what's happening at the League through *American Bicyclist* magazine, but they'll also receive discounts at bike shops, on bike shipping — everything a member receives. We want your club leadership to be able to talk about the benefits of being a League member, and this is the best way to make sure they are aware of everything a membership in the League can do, both for them and for their rank and file club member.

In the coming weeks, we will be in contact with each club to make sure that we have the most up-to-date information on your leadership, so that they can begin to receive the benefits.

Club Leadership Training Program

The League is proud to announce that it will be launching a new club leadership training program in 2009. We are designing this program with the goal of getting club leaders from around the country together, so that they can share best practices and learn how to manage their club even more efficiently in the coming year. Want to learn how to schedule more rides in 2009, or find new ways to reach out to your membership? This will be the place to find out.

The pilot program is scheduled to take place over the course of a weekend in February or March 2009. More details on this program will be coming soon. Contact Matt Banks at the League for more information.

State Ambassador Program

The League is looking for a few good folks to become League State Ambassadors. State ambassadors will work with board members and staff to provide closer liaison between the regional director and League members, volunteers and affiliated organizations; identify issues, challenges, and opportunities for the League to address in relation to its member services and programs; promote member participation in the League; promote League membership, services and programs to people and organizations in their state; and assist their regional director in recommending regional events and award recipients for the national office.

The ideal person would be someone from one of local clubs and affiliate organizations, who already has some connection to the local issues. This program is not looking to supplant local organizations, only to help the League be even more responsive to local issues, and to help us more

effectively coordinate our advocacy efforts.

Think you or someone you know has got the right stuff to be a League Ambassador? Send your resume to Matt Banks at the League, and he'll be in touch with you regarding the position. Contact him at: matt@bikeleague.org



WELCOME TO NEW LEAGUE AFFILIATED CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

BBSSU, DC
Bicycle Coalition Of The Ozarks, AR
Bicycle Up, TX
Bicycling Around Minnesota (BAM), MN
Bike West, VA
Cactus Hugger Cycling Club, UT
Cadence Cycling Club, MI
Charleston Ride For Hope, SC
Climate Ride 2008, MT
Napa County Bicycle Coalition, CA
Colorado Wheeltime It, CO
Cycle Sports Of Doylestown, PA
Down East Cyclists, NC
Essex County Velo, MA
Farmers Branch Cycling Club, TX
Florida Bicycle Education Foundation, Inc, FL
Greenbrier Valley Bicycle Club, WV
Life Cycle Fitness, PA
Missouri Tour Bike Club, MO
Montpelier Bikes, VT
Moultonborough Cycling Club, NH
National Park Service, DC
Polly Ann Trailways Management Council, MI
Public Transportation Safety, CA
River Valley Junior Cycling, MN
River Valley Trails, WI
South Bay Women On Wheels, CA
Tour De Parks, OR
Tour for Health, IL
Warengo Community Foundation, KS
Wood River Bicycle Coalition, ID

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

2009 National Bike Summit
March 10-12 • Washington DC

Go for Green: Building Bicycling Into the Transportation Bill — 2009 is the year Congress will write the next transportation bill. This only happens every five years, which makes the 2009 Summit the most important the League has ever put on. Bicyclists will have a chance to speak up on Capitol Hill, ask for money to support bicycling nationwide, and to have their voices heard. For more information, contact Walter Finch: walter@bikeleague.org

2009 League Bicycle Education Conference
June 18-20 • San Jose, CA

For more information, Contact Preston Tyree: preston@bikeleague.org

2009 League Bike Rally
July 31-Aug 2 • Weekend on Wheels • Minneapolis, MN

To learn more, contact Matt Banks: matt@bikeleague.org

LCI Seminars:

Nov. 7-9, 2008 • Glen Burnie, MD • Pat Barnhardt • (410) 777-2939

Nov. 14-16, 2008 • Madison, WI • Peter Flucke • (920) 497-3196

Nov. 14-16, 2008 • Clear Lake/Houston, TX • Dan Raine, (713) 598-0008

Nov. 21-23, 2008 • Lincroft, NJ • Mary Ann Waclawik, (732) 224-2315

Dec. 5-7, 2008 • Bentonville AR • Tim Robinson, (479)619-8888