



DBC NEWSLETTER JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

A Note from the Editor

This is my first attempt at creating a newsletter for the club. I hope to improve its appearance, as I gain familiarity with a publishing app. John Flick, who has produced this newsletter most recently, is a difficult act to follow. I am grateful for his mentorship. *Arthur Gross*

Ask the Geezer

Dear Geezer,

I understand that there are some new 2018 laws in Illinois regarding bicycles. Do you know anything about them?

Signed Ignorant of the Law

Dear Ignorant,

You can rest assured that our distinguished representatives in Springfield are diligently working to protect and serve the citizens of our fair state. As a matter of fact, they may have focused too much of their energy on bicycle matters, and not left enough time for more mundane matters, such as, balancing a budget. Anyway, there are some exciting new laws that are effective in 2018

In the past, it was a legal requirement to have a reflector on the back of the bike when riding at night. Now it is permissible to have a light instead of a reflector. I do not believe that the law states whether the light must be in the blink or no-blink mode. Upon learning of this statute, most riders have responded with, "Duh".

Another bicycle law pertains to vehicle drivers. With no head-on traffic, it is now permissible to cross over a double yellow line in order to give a cyclist three feet when passing. Personally I think that this is good. But I also think that there are drivers, who in their seventy or so years of driving experience, have never crossed a double yellow line. And probably won't start now. So you still got to be careful out there

Jessica and Bob Go Glamping with Bikes

We are glamping on Chokoloskee Island, 3 miles south of Everglades City, 7 miles south of the intersection of Florida 29 and the Tamiami Trail (highway 41). Hundreds of alligators and thousands of birds and snakes live in the canals that were dug to provide material for the construction of routes 41 and 29. An 11 mile bike ride will take you to the Fakahatchee State Park ranger station, and then on for miles into the Everglades. Chokoloskee has an RV park, a trailer park, some old buildings and is basically a fishing village.

It is a shell island, which means it was literally created from the shells that were discarded over thousands of years by the native Americans who lived in the area. A road from the mainland to Chokoloskee was completed in 1955.

It's a fascinating area, and particularly comfortable to visit right now before mosquito season hits. — *Jessica and Bob Disbrow*



Time to Renew Membership for 2018

An application is attached to your e-mail!

Upcoming Events

2018 Illinois Bike Summit Monday, May 7, 9:30am - 3:30pm University of Illinois at Chicago

Monday, May 7 at the University of Illinois at Chicago will be a day of learning and networking with up to 300 bicycle advocates, planners, engineers, agency staff, government officials, and others from around the state. With a range of session topics – from bikeway design and tips, to advocacy and community engagement – the summit offers strategies to help you make progress in your town.

The Summit features keynote speakers, breakout sessions organized in three tracks, coffee talks, mobile workshops, lunch, advocacy awards, and a networking reception. Continuing education credits will also be available for professional planners and engineers.

The Summit is limited to 300 attendees and advance registration is required. Early bird discount rates have been extended through February 28! For more information, Google search: *2018 Illinois Bike Summit*.

Little Galilee Christian Camp

Little Galilee Christian Camp, a few miles south and west of Clinton, Illinois, is having a fundraiser bike ride over Labor Day weekend. There will be a 100 mile ride and there will be other options, including kids / family rides.

For more information about the ride(s) you can call (217) 935-3809

Fund raised are to build a dining hall for the camp, which is used by people of all ages for Christian purposes.

Submitted by Kevin Brobst

GYMRAT has openings!

The DBC has room for two more people for the trip across America. We leave on June 14 and return June 27, 2018. If interested get in touch with *Chuck Ramsey* at xchuckramsey@gmail.com.

Grand Illinois Bike Tour

Ride Illinois on June 10-15 is sponsoring its 16th annual Grand Illinois Bike Tour. The 2018 route will feature central Illinois with a special focus on Abraham Lincoln history. Enjoy great bicycling on quiet country roads and visit charming towns and places from Lincoln's life in Springfield, Decatur, New Salem, and his days as a lawyer on the 8th Judicial Circuit.

This unforgettable six-day ride will make a loop starting and ending in Clinton, with overnight stops in Lincoln, Springfield (2 nights), and Decatur (2 nights). Choose among daily mileage options for a total ranging from 200 to 370 miles. Pick between camping and motel options, and enjoy evenings filled with riders hailing from around the country. For more information go to: <http://rideillinois.org/events/2018-grand-illinois-bike-tour/>

Annual Ride from Bickers' Cabin

Laura and Jim Bickers invite you to spend a few days biking, hiking, camping and exploring nature at their cabin in Newton, IL. Their cabin has a bathroom, showers and a kitchen, and a traditional outdoor campfire to enhance a shared "get away from it all" experience. The target date each year is between Mothers's Day and Memorial Day. This year it will be most likely be on the weekend following May 18th. To confirm the date and to get more details, including directions call Laura or Jim (217-877-7586). The cabin's location is: 7999 East, 1375 Avenue, Newton, Illinois.

The President's Spin

A new season of bicycle riding is upon us. It's time to think about repeating tried and true riding activities and exploring some new riding adventures.

It's also time to think about what we want to do as a club. The Arthur Ride is a unique and attractive ride for many bicyclers in the region and it is our only source (besides club membership dues) of funds to support our causes. We continue to need more club members to pitch in to do the work of putting on the ride and to bring new ideas to make it a success.

We also need new ideas and more member involvement in new member recruitment and community outreach. I feel that finding ways to promote bicycling in our community will attract new members and new members will help the club to do community outreach. The circle completes itself, but we must get it moving.

I'm looking forward to a year of fun filled and health (both physical and mental) promoting bicycle activity along with chances to develop and support safe, enjoyable bicycling in our community.

I thank all of our members for all you do to make the Decatur Bicycle Club a success.

Submitted by: President *Ralph Czerwinski*

Decatur Bicycle Club's New Slate of Leaders 2018

Here is a list of our DBC leaders selected during the October 2017 monthly meeting:

President: Ralph Czerwinski

Vice President: Rick Scholl

Secretary: Norma Hubert

Treasurer: Dave Carpenter

Newsletter: Arthur Gross

Club Ride Coordinator: John Flick

Arthur Ride Coordinators: Jim Johnson & Dorothy Miller

Arthur Ride Food: Jan Hoerbert

Arthur Ride Brochure: Helene Flick

Arthur Ride T-Shirts: Judi Carpenter

GYMRAT Organizer: Chuck Ramsey

Jim and Jan Go Bicycling the Gulf Stream

Of course you can't actually cycle the Gulf Stream which comes up the east coast of Mexico under Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, around Florida and up the coast of South Carolina. It was used by the Spaniards to bring their gold from South America to Spain.

We merely used it as an excuse to get south for a few weeks and provide research for all of you. Now you can ride your bikes next winter without leaving North America.

Driving straight south on January 13, 2018, we left snow and ice behind by mid-Mississippi. Our first ride was the "Longleaf Trace", a rail to trail from Prentiss to Hattiesburg (44 miles). We rode from Sumrall to Enis, a great trail with interesting small towns. Of course, we always had to ride back to our starting points.

Next we camped at Shepard State Park near Gautier, MS, to ride bike trails on a scenic road with no shoulder.

Our third intended ride was the 8 mile trail the entire length of Dauphin Island near Mobile, Alabama. Unfortunately, 22 degree at night and 35 degree daytime with 25 mph wind from the north discouraged our ride. We toured Ft. Stuart and an Audubon Park nearby on foot. Both were very enjoyable. If you get good weather we highly recommend the trail.

Two trails we passed up were the "Mississippi River Trail" along the entire western border of Mississippi and the "Natchez Trace" from Tennessee to Natchez, Mississippi.

Now going east along the Gulf we rode the Blackwater Heritage State Trail out of Milton, Florida. It's 9 miles long plus a military trail to a Naval Air Station gate, plus 8 more miles on an empty road recommended by a local bike shop. 25 miles Rail to Trail.

Continuing east we rode out of Falling Water State Park. The trail led right out of the park to Chipley, Florida along Alternate Route 77. We missed the Timpoochee Trail (19 miles) on the Emerald Coast at South Walton which winds through 12 beach towns in the panhandle, due to weather.

We did ride the Tallahassee/St. Mark Heritage Trail (16 miles — a "Rail to Trail"). A new 9 mile county trail is almost complete as an addition. Highly recommended.

The Nature Coast State Trail (31+ miles) runs from Chiefland to Cross City. Manatee Springs State Park is near by (6 miles). Fanning Springs State Park is astride the Trail and has cabins to rent but no camping. We saw Manatees 15 feet away from the dock. Florida is full of State Parks with good biking trails.

Jan and I will continue this report on our Gulf Coast research in the next newsletter as our Editor has pressured us to cough up



this information. We are available for further interrogation but are presently at Hunting Island State Park in South Carolina near Beaufort after leaving Savannah today (February 6, 2018).

— *Jim Johnson and Jan Hoerbert*

Mileage Stats

This is the last month received and total received for the last year. Please notify Laura Bickers for your updates and corrections. Her email address is *thefarm56@att.net* or phone and leave a message at 217-877-7586. Try to submit your mileage by the 10th of the month. Another email option is *decaturbicycle-club.org/mileage.*, but Laura's personal email is simplest.

	Most Recent	Total Year (2017)
Kevin Brobst	335	3891
Chuck Ramsey	189	?

Jessica Disbrow	37	1596
Bob Disbrow	37	1263
Jim Bickers	116	1538
Laura Bickers	34	2313
Jim Johnson	50	1263
Jan Hoerbert	50	700
Norma Back	225	2320
Keith Back	334	5002
Terry Hogg	343	2725
Dorothy Miller	76	2501
Walter Lohman	395	1661
Ralph Czerwinski	179	2080

Final Note

Please submit comments, suggestions, and any advice on how this newsletter can be improved or modified to:

argross@gmail.com

— *Arthur Gross*