



The Cue Sheet

October
2010

The Newsletter of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club
Riding Strong for over 32 Years



Elmhurst Bicycle Club is the League of American Bicyclists' 2009 Bicycle Club of the Year for Region 4.

Cyclists celebrate completion of Salt Creek Greenway Trail By Annemarie Mannion

(Editor Note: This article appear in the Chicago Tribune Trib Local edition on Monday, September 27th. The reference is



Can you spot the EBC'ers in and out of uniform?

<http://triblocal.com/elmhurst/2010/09/27/cyclists-celebrate-completion-of-salt-creek-greenway-trail/>)

Cyclists who recently pedaled the Salt Creek Greenway Trail from start to finish were part of a journey that was 15 years in the making.

That's how long it took from inception to completion for the approximately 32-mile trail that extends from the Busse Woods Forest Preserve to Brookfield Zoo.

Members of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club, canoeists and local governmental officials from DuPage County celebrated a dedication of the trail Saturday with ribbon cuttings in all the communities along it in the county including Elmhurst.

"We had a mass ride. There were 60 or 70 cyclists taking part," said Bill Weidner, director of public affairs for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

It was a day that Dewey Pierotti, president of the forest preserve district, was not sure he would ever see.

"I started working on this in 1994 or 1995," he said. "We had to get so many intergovernmental entities involved. I thought it was insurmountable."

Construction of the trail started five years ago. Completing it was not impossible, but it was not easy.

Elmhurst residents had objected over the last few years over the idea of using residential streets for a portion of the path. They were overruled in August when the park board voted to post signs with maps in southeast Elmhurst, which show cyclists a number of residential streets along which they may travel.

In advance of Saturday's event, Jim Rogers, deputy director of parks and recreation for the Elmhurst Park District, said the district posted temporary signs with maps of streets that cyclists could choose to travel.

"We have some signs up near the Illinois Prairie Path. We're still working on putting permanent signs up," he said.

The city of Elmhurst's public affairs and safety committee also is studying whether there are any traffic safety issues related to the path that need to be addressed.

Pierotti said he thinks many people will enjoy the rustic trail that provides a respite of greenery in the highly developed eastern part of DuPage County.

Petra Hofmann, vice president of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club, agrees.

"Parts of it are quite scenic," Hofmann said. "It goes through some forest preserves. There's a small portion of it on streets but that doesn't detract from the scenic trail itself."

Communities in DuPage County that celebrated the trail with ribbon-cuttings included Itasca, Wood Dale, Addison, Villa Park and Oak Brook.

Cook County communities that have segments or are very near the trail include Elk Grove Village, Lyons, Riverside, North Riverside, Western Springs, LaGrange Park, Westchester, Broadview, Brookfield, Wood Dale and Rolling Meadows.

Boris Bikes, London, England

by Chuck Dean

Unlike some other travelers from the Elmhurst Bicycle Club whose recent European adventures prominently featured bicycles (can you say Hoel or Schwartz?), the Dean's only got close to bicycles in London next to the pedicab drivers, city commuters, or 'Barclays Cycle Hire' renters. With the daytime and early evening temperatures in the 60's the few days we were in London, pedicabs were present and in use. We did manage to see a play (Oliver, at the Royal Drury Lane theater) but we took a conventional 'black taxi' from our hotel to the theater (there were 4 of us). But I was thinking of the pedicab because Marilyn and I took a pedicab in New York from our hotel to the theater district to see Gypsy several years ago. It was a neat experience.

The Barclays Cycle Hire bikes (aka 'Blue Bikes,' aka 'Boris Bikes') were evident and prominent even if they hadn't been mentioned by our tour guide, but Andrew (our guide) took out his black plastic Barclays key from his wallet to tell us that he was an early adopter of this new London phenomenon. As I tell you a little more about Barclays Cycle Hire I need to credit Wikipedia as the source of the hard facts presented below.



Barclays Cycle Hire near Victoria Station

"Barclays Cycle Hire is a public bicycle sharing scheme that was launched on 30 July 2010 in London, UK. At launch there were 315 bicycle docking stations and 5,000 bicycles available in central London."

"The scheme is also informally called the Boris Bike scheme after Mayor Boris Johnson, who was (still is) in office at the time the scheme opened to the public. Johnson claims to have initiated the scheme, despite it being announced by his predecessor Ken

Livingstone during his term in office. Boris Johnson has said that he 'hoped the bikes would become as common as black cabs and red buses in the capital.'



© James Emmett
Mayor Boris Johnson on his Commuter

The Lord High Mayor of London (well actually, just 'Mayor'), Boris Johnson, was on the 'telly' while we were in London announcing his intention to run for another term of office. The television clip featured Boris at the end of his work day outside holding his commuter bike talking to the reporter about his re-election campaign. The end of the clip showed Boris mounting his bicycle and riding away. He is a bicycle advocate.

"Every bike features dynamo powered flashing front and rear lights, a bell on the left handlebar, and three gears operated by a wheel on the right handlebar. A chain guard avoids the necessity for trouser clips and there is a small luggage rack in front of the handlebars. The cycles are fitted with brakes on the wheel hubs and the saddle height is rider adjustable. There is stand which can be kicked down into place using the left leg/foot."

"The bikes are not provided with locks (unlike the Velib scheme in Paris), nor do they come with helmets. The first accident involving a bike

occurred on 14 September 2010."

The rental scheme idea is geared to the quick trip, short haul traveler. You can rent for several hours, but the pricing scheme and geographic dispersion of the rental/docking stations suggests a target market of riders who will frequently ride a distance requiring less than 30 or 60 minutes. The October, 2010 conversion rate for British pounds very roughly: 1 pound is \$1.50.

Here are the Wiki-sourced pricing facts:

Users of the scheme must pay both an access fee and usage fees.

Access fee: 1 day = £1; 1 week = £5; 1 year = £45.

Usage fee: 30 minutes = free; 1.0 hour = £1; 1.5 hrs. = £4; 2.0 hrs. = £6; 6.0 hrs. = £35; and, 24 hrs. = £50.

"Usage fees are designed to promote the constant circulation of bicycles. As a result, whilst the first 30 minutes are free, costs rise sharply thereafter. If you dock a bike, a period of five minutes must elapse before you can take out another one. Therefore you could theoretically ride a bike for free all day, as long as you re-docked every half an hour and waited five minutes before taking it out again."

According to Wiki, "There were 500,000 rentals in the first 6 weeks of operation." Perhaps a victim of this apparent early success "An expansion of the project was delayed as Transport for London struggled to deal with software glitches and problems caused by high customer demand."

"The project initially covered about 17 square miles of central London ... and will cost an estimated £140 million (more than £20,000 per available bike) over six years. It is expected to pay for itself over time. Barclays' contribution is £25 million."

"The bicycles and the docking stations are built in Canada and are based on Bixi, Montreal's bicycle rental system."

There is a short little cartoon-style video about this program out on the web. I recommend it to you if you would like to know more or better understand London's Barclays Cycle Hire.

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/cycling/15025.aspx>

And here is a link to the program's home page.

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/cycling/14808.aspx>

Beginners MTB Ride 9/25/2010

Photos by George Pastorino

These 2 pictures only give you a hint at the good time had by all. George published a wonderful album with many more pictures. And, as usual, accompanied by a sound track ("I Won't Back Down"). Click the link below if you would like to see more.



Baltimore and Chuck Gentile at Bull Frog Lake



Bull Frog Lake Group Picture

George's post-ride note:

"We had a terrific turn out on the beginner's mountain bike ride today.

We rode most of Palos easy single-track, and everyone had a great time which is not surprising as single-track is the soul of mountain biking.

Thanks to Baltimore, Chuck (Gentile) and Pussanee for helping on this ride and offering instruction.

Please remember that drinking beer after a ride will improve all aspects of your riding, and all aspects of your life in general."

http://albums.phanfare.com/isolated/QPOjBktb/1/4840452_5390716

Starved Rock Mega Hike



Betty and Jerry



On the Trail, Starved Rock State Park

I suspect that it was more than just ideal weather that caused the publication of high praise and thank you's offered to Gerald Seiden for the Mega Hike in Starved Rock. Judy Mikesell certainly enjoyed it and offered the following report:

"I want to thank Jerry for listing this wonderful Starved Rock hike.

We had great weather and the views:-)

The hike was lead by Starved Rock employees that enjoy the great outdoors as much as we do.

Thank you Thank you Jerry and please list the next MEGA hike planned for April.

judy"

There are more pictures available in the EBC Google posts if you would like to see them. But these 2 give you the flavor.

Meeting Minutes September

Board Minutes September 9, 2010

Present: John Park, Cheri O'Riordan,

1. **President:** The Board Meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.
2. **Secretary:** No minutes were taken secondary to the Board Meeting being cancelled.
3. **Treasurer:** The monthly Banking Summary (08/13/10 to 09/09/10) listed income of \$160.00 and expenses of \$740.42 with a difference of minus \$580.42 to date. At present, the balance in the treasury is \$12,475.16. Copies of the Treasurer's report were provided by the Treasurer at the September Club Meeting
4. The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 6:15 p.m. at the Community Bank of Elmhurst.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri O'Riordan
Club Secretary

EBC General Meeting Minutes September 9, 2010

Present: John Park, George Pastorino, Cheri O'Riordan
New Members: Tony Harnett, Denise Whistler, Sonja Vera

Guests: None

1. **President:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. at the Community Bank of Elmhurst. The President stated that due to the lack of a quorum, the September Board Meeting had to be cancelled.
 - **Donations:** Because of this action, the board will discuss the distribution of the club's financial donations at the next Board Meeting. Members may refer to the suggested list of possible recipients and their respective web sites in the August Board Meeting Minutes.
 - **Jerseys:** Jerseys will definitely be available. There is a committee working on the logistics for ordering, collecting monies, etc.
 - **Picnic:** Joanne Dezur did a wonderful job in heading up this year's picnic. Everyone had a great time. Joanne has volunteered to do the same for next year. Kudos to Joanne and to all who contributed in making it a very fun filled event.
 - **REI:** Thank you to Alexis LeMieux, Baltimore Ortega and Lew Worthem for volunteering to distribute club literature at the REI store event last month. Consequently, Baltimore obtained a number of 15% discount coupons which will be passed out at next month's meeting.
 - **The VP/Ride Captain** is working on a ride for the opening of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail on September 25th. Watch for details on the EBC list server.
2. **Secretary:** The August 12, 2010 club meeting minutes were summarized and approved. (Full reports are in the newsletter and on the website.)
3. **Treasurer:** The monthly Banking Summary (08/13/10 to 09/09/10) listed income of \$160.00 and expenses of \$740.42 with a difference of minus \$580.42 to date. At present, the balance in the treasury is \$12,475.16.
4. **Mountain Bike Coordinator:** Palos is now dry and many mountain bike rides have been scheduled including rides for the beginner, intermediate and

advanced rider. On September 25, George will lead a beginner ride in Palos. See George if you need a mountain bike as he has a few extra you can use. Baltimore will lead beginner rides in October.

5. **Membership Coordinator:** Nancy Rice substituted in Maria's absence. There are 437 members. Three new members were introduced: Tony Harnett, Denise Whistler and Sonja Vera.
6. **Advocacy:** No Report. Bob and Nancy Hoel are bicycling in France.
7. **Refreshments:** Jim Cardosi provided the wonderful treats.
8. **Program:** Ray Dal Lago thanked George Pastorino and the Bike Psychos for leading a super ride in the country. He also extended another thank you to Joanne Dezur for taking the helm in coordinating the club picnic. Ray then facilitated a lively and humorous discussion of member's most memorable experiences in bicycle riding.
9. The next EBC general club meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at the Community Bank of Elmhurst.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri O'Riordan
Club Secretary

Please submit articles and/or photos for the newsletter to Chuck Dean (cdean69033_aol.com). The deadline is the 20th of the month.

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Interested in joining EBC? [Membership Application](http://www.elmhurstbicycling.org/about/membership.asp)
(<http://www.elmhurstbicycling.org/about/membership.asp>)

October, 2010 • • • Club Rides

As noted in the September newsletter, the detailed Ride Schedule no longer appears in the newsletter. Click on a link below to get to the current Ride Schedule.

Note 1: 'Ride Schedule.' The most current ride schedule can be found on our website at <http://www.elmhurstbicycling.org/rides/currentRide.aspx>.

Note 2: 'Future Rides' (typically beyond the end of the month, if any exist) can be found on our website at <http://www.elmhurstbicycling.org/rides/futureRide.aspx>.

Note 3: The 'Ride Schedule Archive' can be found on our website at <http://www.elmhurstbicycling.org/rides/archive.asp>.

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