



The Cue Sheet

March
2013

The Newsletter of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club
Riding Strong for over 35 Years



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

2013 UP Ski & Snowshoe Trip by Kathy Storm

Brrrr!! That's what the first 2 days of the EBC UP Ski and Snowshoe trip were like this year with highs in the single digits. We lucked out on the weather overall. Three weeks earlier there had been a substantial heat wave across the upper Midwest including the UP. Much of the snow melted and the 4th Annual SISU race was cancelled.

Then the following week, January 21st, when the Nordic Foxes were in the UP they had to endure bitterly cold weather. George Hardwidge reported he skied most days at -5 to -15F. So our week (February 3 - 8) was really pretty nice overall with 2-6 inches of new snow every day, light winds and temperatures warming to the low 20's at the end of the week.

Each morning, we started out with an 8:30am Group Meeting in the newly remodeled lobby of the Indianhead Motel. George Hardwidge did the announcing for the cross country ski venue the group would be going to that day along with information from Judy Mikesell about the organized snowshoe hike that she and Martha Miles would lead, and the scheduled restaurants for the 6 and 7pm dinner groups that evening.

The cross country ski venues the group visited this year included ABR, Wolverine and Milje's; no trips to The Porkies or Sylvania. Snowshoe hikes took place at ABR, Wolverine, Milje's, The Miner's Heritage Park and Ottawa National Forest (Black River Falls).

ABR has added some new trails farther south that are on the Windy Ridge Preserve. 70km of beautifully groomed trails are now available through the ABR system. ABR is a great venue to enjoy as they have a full service ski shop, rentals and a huge warming cabin. Some of our Members no longer ski and just "hang out" in the warming cabin reading a book, playing board games and visiting with members as they come back from the trails. The EBC group usually spends Monday and Thursday at this venue. There was a new lunch option this year with a small trailer parked in the parking lot serving a limited menu from Paula's Bistro; chili, hot turkey sandwiches and soup were offered.

Wolverine is one of my favorite venues. It's about 6 miles northeast of the Indianhead Motel and shares property with the Powderhorn Downhill Ski venue. The Wolverine cross country ski and snowshoe trails are maintained by the Wolverine Ski Club. They also have a good size warming cabin as well, but no equipment rental or indoor plumbing. Both the cross country ski and snowshoe trails are easy to cover in a half day each; so one can "do" everything at this venue in a day. Plus, on the longer loop off of the main cross country ski trail, you can ski downhill for a short distance with the downhill skiers before taking a sharp right hand turn and returning to the more tranquil cross country ski trail.



Kathy Storm & Carey DeWitt Snowshoe at ABR

Our trip to Wolverine on Tuesday this year had



Isaac Samayoa after Snowshoe Hike at Wolverine

more snowshoe hikers than cross country skiers. This is a pretty aggressive hike for those that snowshoe and the views are beautiful, especially when you are above the water tower for the nearby hospital. Isaac had plenty of energy left over after the morning trek and was always trying to find others who wanted to go downhill skiing with him.

Late Tuesday afternoon, 12 of us drove out to Barber Road Stables in Bessemer and took an hour long sleigh ride along snow packed roads (I think we saw 2 cars during the entire hour!). It was cold, but hay and blankets in the sleigh helped us stay reasonably warm. Our sleigh ride started at 4:30pm and featured a beautiful sunset and very personable wagon driver. Betty Bond took care of arranging this side trip and I think it will be repeated in future years.

Back at the hotel after the Sleigh Ride and before dinner, we learned of a little "accident" that happened at ABR that afternoon. Paul Eident did a face plant on the tail end of one of the cross country ski trails and ended up with a shiner caused by his sunglasses. Judy's son Phil, a nurse at Good Sam, came to his aide.

On Wednesday, about 20 Members went to Milje's which is located about 30 miles east of Ironwood, just outside Wakefield. This is a "no frills" venue that doesn't really advertize. They have a small warming cabin that doubles as a Family Vacation Home for the family that owns the property. Because our group was so large, Morgan (Indianhead Motel) made arrangements for the trails to be freshly groomed upon our arrival. What a great concierge. Milje's is a quiet venue with about 12 km of classic ski trails; no big hills, no skate skiers and lots of trees.

Many of us enjoyed lunch in Wakefield including one of our "Newbie's" from the Quad-City area, Carey DeWitt. Here, she was introduced to her first pasta.



Carey DeWitt Tastes 1st pasta in Wakefield

As everyone knows, people who are athletic also enjoy their food. El Dorado, a Mexican Restaurant, opened in Ironwood in April 2012 and it was a hit with everyone. Bell Chalet, Maplewood Steak House, Kimball Inn and Tacconelli's rounded out the dinner schedule.

Another highlight of this years' trip was a wonderful afternoon snowshoe hike led by Morgan around the trails in the Miner's Memorial Heritage Park. This is a 167 acre city park established in 2010 that is about 2.5 miles from the Indianhead Motel. The trails weave past various historical mining operations (and around quarries) that are part of the rich culture of Ironwood.

\$130 was collected amongst the group this year for a donation to the Miners Memorial Heritage Park. This was in addition to unused cross country ski tickets that many of us did not use on the 5th day of our "package". Marian Nealon helped collect for this cause.



George Hermach & Carey Depart Heritage Miner's Trail

The cross country ski and snowshoe venues in this area of the UP are numerous, well maintained and offer every level of difficulty you can imagine. If you make the trip from the Chicago area, you will not be disappointed.

When I first started coming on these trips in 2002, I had limited experience with cross country skiing on groomed trails. It was through these trips during the past 10-12 years that I learned more about cross country skiing and snowshoeing through the warmth, friendliness and generosity of many EBC

Members. Cross Country skiing on groomed trails is wonderful!

Judy Mikesell has been excellent at getting many people involved in trying out snowshoeing and serves as a "guide" to many venues during this annual trip for the EBC. I purchased a pair of snowshoes about 6 years ago and have never regretted it. Many times I can snowshoe on snow that would be marginal for cross country skiing in the Quad-City area.

I am grateful to those in the EBC who organize this trip every year; currently George and Sharon Hermach. This is wonderful way to spend 6 days during the winter and love it! Morgan and Linda are excellent hosts and even step in to lead or join in outings with the EBC.



Getting Ready to Head Out to Dinner

HIP - Because We Care

By Betty Bond

Many members have asked me what HIP stands for... actually it is:

Human Interest Person

Several years ago I was asked by some board members to create a position that would keep members informed of any injury, illness, accident or special happening to another member ... similar to the 'Town Crier' in the old days. Because we do not ride the same days or times or speeds of others in the club we might not be aware that another member is going through some difficult times without some sort of announcement on the list server. We are much like a small village and we know almost every member and care for each and every one of them. Often we would like to send a card or make a phone call or at least send an email offering our sympathy just to let this person know we are concerned. Once someone has told me about a happening of another member I will always phone that person and ask them the details and if they would like to have their friends in the club informed.

An announcement is NEVER put on the list server without the permission of the member involved. Some people feel very private and that is OK... but others want their friends to know they have a special happening. I need to enlist members' help in continuing this service. If you know of anyone that is having a special situation that you would like others to know about please notify me. That is the only way I have of performing this service.

I have been doing this for several years now and wonder if anyone else would like to take my place. The board is considering making this a Standing Committee Chairperson position. If no one comes forward I will continue being the HIP.

If you have any questions or thoughts or maybe you think this should not be continued, please let Chuck or any board member know your thoughts.

Plan For Safety

By Chuck Dean

Perhaps I'm fudging in awarding February the big green checkmark, since I included skiing in the activities I mentioned last month. Surely, we'll not let a shiner break the streak before we have even begun. Forgive me.

Seriously, we did record another 2,000 miles without an accident. Let's push forward another month. Your vigilance can make the difference. Be alert; be safe!

February



Meeting Minutes February

Board Minutes February 14, 2013

Present: Chuck Dean, Cheri O'Riordan, John Stanaway, Gerry Fekete, Cian Perez, Cindy Reedy, Sharon Hermach, George Hermach, Nancy Shack

EBC General Meeting Minutes February 14, 2013

No Meeting Was Held.

1. **President:** The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. at the Community Bank of Elmhurst.
 - An Elmhurst woman requested that EBC donate a bicycle to her organization which would then be used as a raffle prize. The Board did not support this request as it could set a precedent.
 - Susan Sperl asked the President if the club should order extra jerseys for new members to purchase throughout the year. Discussion followed with the Board not in favor of supporting this request at this time since there may be a new jersey design created in the near future. The Board will review this idea again when a new design has been created.
 - In the past, EBC has supported the Advocacy Chairperson for \$200 to attend the ATA conference in Washington D.C. The Board was in favor of continuing this monetary support for this year.
 - The President has been asked by some members if sponsors have the right to advertise on the EBC list server. Discussion followed. Due to time constraints, further discussion is required.
 - The Coordinator of Adult Services at Hillside Public Library is looking for someone to give a 45-50 minute presentation about biking sometime in March, April, May or June.
2. **Secretary:** The January 10, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes were approved. The Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on the EBC website in the newsletter.
3. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer presented a budget and requested input. Concern was expressed if the club, as a non profit, should have such a large balance since EBC has not supported an invitational ride for many years. Discussion followed. The Treasurer presented the Monthly Banking Summary (01/11/13 through 02/14/13) listed income was \$860.72; expenses were \$217.64. At present, the balance in the treasury is \$17,013.24 with \$857.65 set aside for jersey credits and \$288.42 for wool jersey credits. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The club's liability insurance has changed from a sole provider to two providers: West Bend and Gerber. Each provider will cover a specific portion of EBC coverage. The cost will essentially remain the same. An annual IRS form will be filed online regarding our non-profit status.
4. **VP/Ride Captain:**
 - The question of re-examining whether participating in rides outside of EBC should count as mileage credit was presented. The concerns are: the routes on these rides are

not designed by a club member; the riders may not always ride at the same speed; and the riders may not ride for the same length of miles. The number of these types of rides has been increasing on the *Ride Schedule* and is projected to continue to increase. Some comments were offered regarding other bicycle club's invitational rides.

- Another issue of concern that was presented centered on the qualifications for receiving a ride leader jersey. All agreed that the club has changed considerably since its inception in 1977 with over 500+ members and the offering of many more rides.

- The VP/Ride Captain will send an email on the list server inviting members to participate on a committee for the purpose of setting guidelines concerning these and other issues. The guidelines will then be presented to the Board for review and then to the general membership.

5. Newsletter Editor: No report.

6. Membership Coordinator: No formal report was given at this time since there will not be a General Club meeting tonight. The club membership is 54% higher than last year at this time.

7. New Business:

- Should EBC solicit donations from sponsors since we do not support an invitational ride and are using the money for other items/activities?

- The People's Resource Center (PRC) in Wheaton, IL receives donated used bicycles that require repairs before they can be given to Du Page County residents in need. The question arose if EBC members have bicycle parts that can be donated to PRC; if there are club members who can volunteer their time to repair bicycles; or if the club can make a donation to PRC for new parts.

8. Old Business:

- Sponsors and Advertising: A question arose asking if sponsors should use the list server to advertise. The President will ask Susan Sperl to put together some guidelines for member sponsors and sponsors who are not EBC members. Further discussion is required.

- Member Mileage Credit for less than 24 hour notice on the *Ride Schedule*: George Pastorino requested that postings to the *Ride Schedule* be less than 24 hours. He suggested 12 hours apply to MTB and road riders since weather and trail conditions frequently determine if there will be a ride. Further discussion is needed.

9. The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 6:15 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.

Elmhurst Bicycle Club Officers and Committee Chairs

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

March, 2013 • • • Club Rides

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

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

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

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