

Pedal Power

June, 2022

www.BayViewBikeClub.org



The Prez Sez

We held our May membership meeting at the Wheel and Sprocket store in Bayview. See the pics below. We had a nice turnout, a presentation from Jake Newborn, Assistant Director of the Wisconsin the Bike Fed, some snacks provided by the club, and discussions about rides and Donna Spaars made an appeal for volunteers for planning future club activities. Thanks Mike Dix for planning and organizing the meeting.

Our Past Presidents picnic has been scheduled for Sunday July 24 at Heg Park near Burlington. We will use the Burlington Roll Routes. More to come on the event details and volunteer opportunities from Donna.

When we selected that date, we were aware that the following weekend is the Coalition Picnic, but did not think it would deter anyone from attending the Coalition Picnic because they were too full.

Reserve the date for our next general membership meeting Monday July 18. Mike Dix is working on the location and agenda. Stay tuned. (I think I might be running out of euphemisms for “we still have some planning to do”)

Our Spectacular Saturday ride with post ride rocket launch viewing at Bong Recreational Area got cut short due to rain. So I was not the only one taking a short cut back to the parking lot.

I had another reason for a short cut. I managed to wipe out while riding on an extremely treacherous patch of flat, straight, and smooth pavement about 7 miles into the ride, roughly the equivalent of tripping over a blade of grass. I took a few minutes to evaluate damage and then rode back to the parking lot. No serious injuries but I will not be riding for a couple of weeks. I did

learn that it is possible to ride a bike (and not wipe out) even though one side of the handlebars is pointed in the wrong direction. And no, there was no visible damage to the pavement thank you.

But that brings me to the real point. Two other riders were also injured on Saturday when they both crashed at a Railroad track crossing—one seriously enough to be taken to the ER. I am happy to report he is doing well and hope to see him on a ride in the near future.

I don't know if crossing the RR tracks caused their crash or something else. But I am going to use this space to remind everyone to be careful crossing RR tracks, especially those that cross the road at an odd angle. You should always approach RR tracks so that you cross them at a 90-degree angle, perpendicular to the direction you are riding. I know it seems nearly impossible to get a tire caught in that small space between the rail and the pavement and yet it happens all too frequently.

(Note, if you are ever in situation where you are being asked questions to determine if you have a serious head injury, and you are asked "Who is the President?" The answer is "Joe Fischer.")

That is all for now.

And remember..... let's have fun out there. (And watch out for those pesky blades of grass)

--Joe







2022 Ride Schedule - 9:00 am Start

By Andy Sikorski

Date		Route Name	Starting Location	Dist. 1	Dist. 2	Dist. 3	Special Event
Saturday	18-Jun	Virmond Park	Mequon	30			
Sunday	19-Jun	South 'Hills' Sodbuster	Franksville	26	40	56	
Saturday	25-Jun	Lake Mills Triangle	Lake Mills	29	41	56	
Sunday	26-Jun	Mukwonago	Mukwonago	33	44	52	
Saturday	2-Jul	Menomonee Falls/Neosha	Menomonee Falls	29	50	60	Scrumptious Saturday-Hot House
Sunday	3-Jul	Parkside	Kenosha	25	34	47	
Saturday	9-Jul	Charles Memorial	Hales Corners	24	43		
Sunday	10-Jul	Lakeshore Interurban	Port Washington	30	38	50	
Saturday	16-Jul	Gils Ride from Rome	Rome	27	38	50	
Sunday	17-Jul	Whitnall South	Franklin	22	37	58	
Saturday	23-Jul	LaGrange-Southern Kettle	LaGrange	30	48		
Sunday	24-Jul	TBD	TBD				
Saturday	30-Jul	Random Sample	Cedar Grove	29	44		Cedar Grove Holland Fest
Sunday	31-Jul	Coalition Picnic (Spinners host)	Pewaukee	20	40		

Click here for ride detail: <https://bayviewbikeclubblog.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/summary-schedule-09apr2022-to-30oct2022-30apr2022.pdf>

The 'granddaddy' returns: Elroy-Sparta trail reopens nearly four years after flood damage

Chris Hubbuch | Wisconsin State Journal May 13, 2022 0

America's first

Nicknamed “the granddaddy” of trails, Elroy-Sparta was the nation’s first rail-to-trail conversion, following the route of the former Chicago and North Western railroad, which served cities like Sparta and Winona, Minnesota, starting in 1873.

After the railroad pulled up the tracks in 1964, the state purchased the right-of-way, including the bridges, stations and three hand-carved tunnels that were required to limit the grade to 3%. It opened to bike traffic in 1966.





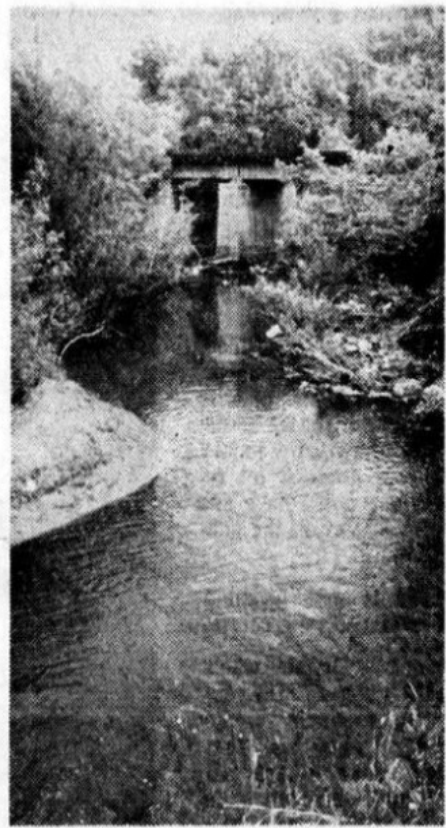
TUNNEL AT WESTERN END OF TRAIL
It was blasted out in 1870-73

A 32-mile stretch of single track connecting Sparta and Elroy, Wis., has been converted into a unique nature trail.

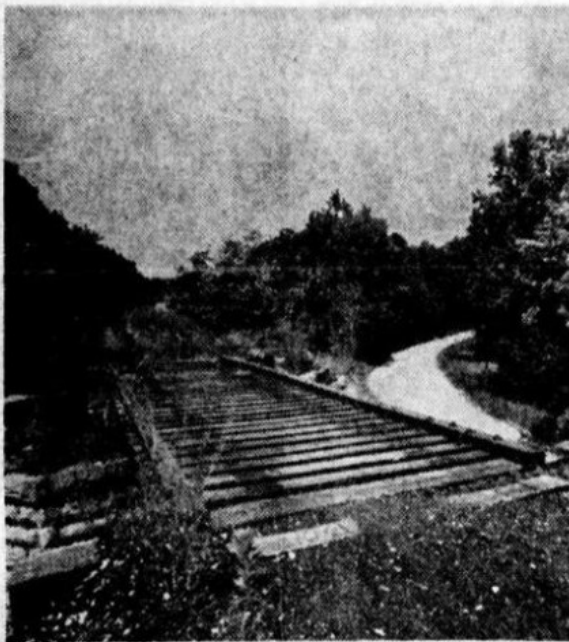
The land, including three tunnels, steel bridges, wooden trestles and station buildings at Wilton, Kendall and Norwalk, was sold by the Chicago and North Western Railway Co. to the State of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission converted the land into a nature trail.

Minnesota may have a similar trail some day. The Chicago and North Western has sold a 20-mile stretch from Lake Wilson to Pipestone, Minn., to the Minnesota Conservation Department, which has plans to convert the land into a nature trail.



TRAIL FREQUENTLY NEARS STREAMS
Fishing is popular in streams



TRAIL HAS 35 BRIDGES AND TRESTLES
Some stretches have wall of vegetation



AN OLD SHELTER FOR RAILROAD MEN
Now an ideal background for pictures



Ride Safety



i love 
bicycling

The following is from:

May 28, 2016 by Adam Farabaugh

How To Cross Railroad Tracks On A Bike



Railroad tracks can be one of the most difficult things to learn to maneuver on a bike. If you occasionally cross railroad tracks on a bike, chances are that you've crashed on a set before. It is very easy to do especially if they're wet. Even experienced riders crash on them but you don't have to if you know what to do.

The Dangers of Crossing Railroad Tracks

Railroad tracks are dangerous to cross on a bike for a few reasons. The largest one is that when they are wet, they are as slick as ice. If they're even at a slight angle, your bike is not straight up and down while crossing, or you try to accelerate or brake, you are very likely to have your wheels slide out from under you. The thing with all of these scenarios as well is that it happens very fast and the next thing you know you're sitting on the ground. Another danger is getting your tires sucked into the crack which can cause a nasty fall. This occurs more often when the tracks are running with you such as with a trolley line.

When Tracks Are Perpendicular



The easiest type of railroad tracks to cross on a bike are ones that are perpendicular to you as you cross them. (like the image above) When crossing any set of tracks, do not turn your front wheel. Keep it straight with a firm grasp so your handlebars don't turn on you when you hit the bumps. When crossing perpendicular tracks, slow a bit and lift your butt slightly off the saddle to absorb the bumps. Also, stop pedaling and coast over keeping your bike straight up and down. A lot of these railroad track crossings can be old and can easily cause a flat tire from the rail or supporting wood, metal, or concrete structure. Taking your butt off the saddle and absorbing any bumps with your legs and arms will help avoid flatting. Another alternative to crossing railroad tracks on a bike is to [bunny hop](#) over them. With this you won't need very much height but you will need speed as the distance to stay in the air is quite large. Also if you don't make it all the way and your rear wheel comes down on the track, it can very easily puncture.



When Tracks Are at an Angle

This type of crossing is likely the type that may have brought you down on a bike. If you were to try and ride across them at an angle, particularly while wet, the wheel will be in contact with the track for longer which combined with the track going in your direction of travel, will cause your wheels to easily slide out. There are three ways to cross these types of crossings with the first one being your standard go-to.

Cross Perpendicular - The first, and safest way, to cross angled railroad tracks is to not cross them at an angle. Simply ride further to the right or left so you can approach them at a 90 degree angle. Then cross them as you would a normal set of tracks perpendicular to you. The one thing to watch for here is that there is no traffic coming up behind you as depending upon the road, you could be in the center of the lane. Most drivers typically recognize the danger you are in and what you are trying to do so will give you space. Don't count on it though so [ride defensively](#).

Volunteer with Bike Fed!

There are some awesome events happening in Milwaukee and Bay View this summer and you can be part of it all!



Tour of America's Dairyland (ToAD)

Cafe Centraal Bay View Classic - Monday, June 20

Volunteer with ToAD: <https://www.tourofamericasdairyland.com/volunteer/>

Volunteer with Bay View Neighborhood Assn: bayviewneighborhood@gmail.com

Volunteer with Bike Fed: WisconsinBikeFed.org >> What We Do >> News >> Events >> Volunteer for Cycling!"



Ride Across Wisconsin

La Crosse to Milwaukee – Saturday and Sunday, August 20 + 21

Go to: <https://www.rideacrosswisconsin.com/> Select: "Details" then "Volunteer"



Bay View Travelling Food Truck Sponsored by Wheel & Sprocket – Thursdays 4-8pm:

June 9, July 21, August 11, September 15

Email Interest and Contact Info To: Laura@WisconsinBikeFed.org



Santa Cycle Rampage – December 3

Go to WisconsinBikeFed.org >> What We Do >> News >> Events >> Volunteer for Cycling!"

PLUS – [MilWALKee Walks Advocates](https://www.facebook.com/MilWALKeeWalks) and a paid Ambassador position:
<https://www.facebook.com/MilWALKeeWalks>

THANK YOU!!!!

A TASTE OF EVENTS TO COME THIS YEAR!



July 23rd-24th - The Scenic Shore 150 Bike Tour is a two-day, 150-mile, fully-supported cycling event that is open to riders of all ages and abilities. One of Wisconsin's most popular bike rides, the Scenic Shore 150 is the largest locally organized and supported event for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Saturday, August 13th: Ride to the Barns



Join us for our 7th annual, one-of-a-kind, stupendously fun, family-friendly **Chris' Slow Roll**: a casual, no-drop, slow, 10-mile bike ride through Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Starting at the War Memorial parking lot in downtown Milwaukee, we'll ride north on Lincoln Memorial Drive up to Shorewood, then snake back on Milwaukee's Oak Leaf Trail where we'll end up just where we started! Gathering for a party at the Beer Garden at the War Memorial, provided by Kege's Inn!

The Board Members



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Newsletter Diane Yurasovich

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Newsletter

By Diane Yurasovich

Don't forget, all club members are welcomed **and encouraged** to submit articles of interest and pictures to the newsletter.

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BVBC Mailing Address

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Bay View, WI 53207

Club Website



Thanks Dean for keeping our website updated!
www.BayViewBikeClub.org



Facebook

Check out our club Facebook page for up-to-date information and events.

Bike Fed Group Riding Information



Please see the link below for the Bike Fed's brochure on group riding safety. It is a great learning tool for new riders and a good refresher for seasoned riders. Let's be safe out there!

<http://wisconsinbikefed.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/2013-GROUPRIDINGREV.pdf>

A Word About Your Electronic Information

Your privacy is important to us. We don't share any of our membership information with anyone. We don't sell or forward your email address to any outside organizations. The BVBC board has decided not to make our member names, addresses or e-mails available electronically to members. We will continue to print a paper membership directory available in June. With very few exceptions, all of the e-mails you get from us will be directly related to club activities.

Please don't ask us to forward any e-mails to our membership. We don't do that. If you would like to share your experiences about a particular ride, feel free to do that in the newsletter. Many bicycle event organizers ask us to forward information about their ride to our members. In order to limit the number of e-mails you get from the club, we don't forward e-mails from outside organizations. We will publish information about rides, events etc if it is submitted to the newsletter.



Let's Be Safe Out There!