

Bike Wisconsin® e-Newsletter

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An irregular e-Newsletter about the goings-on at Bike Wisconsin.

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## **THIS MONTH in the “Ides of March” Issue**

“Think of bicycles as rideable art that can just about save the world.

--Grant Petersen, Rivendell Bicycles

## **GREETINGS BIKERS!**

Have you noticed the big orange ball on the eastern horizon, filling up your living room with golden light earlier and earlier every morning? Yep... that's the sun! Here in Madison, the piles of dirty snow have made their last stand, ice fishermen are looking a bit tentative on the crumbling ice, and Sundays are set aside for the first long bike rides of the season. Even that bracing northeast wind off Lake Monona couldn't wipe the smile off my face as we finished our tour of the Capital Loop this week.

Welcome to the March newsletter with a few bits of fun and notes to warm you up as touring season draws closer. We've got free tours for young riders, Bike Safety 101, something for first time riders, a BIG birthday party in Eagle River, and a survey (where do you hang out online for your bicycle related fix?)

## **WESTON WOODS YOUTH AWARD FOR 2010 BIKEWISCONSIN TOURING SEASON**

Once again the Weston Woods Memorial Fund is offering free tours to young riders for each of our tours. The organization will give away up to 5 free tour registrations to be used on GRABAAWR@, Bike Northwoods, or SAGBRAW@. **Qualified entrants must be between the ages of 8 and 17.** Entrants are required to compose a creative essay on why they love biking and why they want to participate in one of our week-long bicycle tours. Winning riders must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian on the ride. This would be a great opportunity for a rider to introduce the magic of bicycle touring to one or more of your kids. A family vacation on bikes! For more information, visit the link below.

[www.bikewisconsin.com/Main/westonwoods.html](http://www.bikewisconsin.com/Main/westonwoods.html)

## **BIKE NORTHWOODS ITINERARY CHANGE: LAYOVER DAY IN SPOONER**

Due to issues at the overnight site in Hayward we have decided to add a layover day in Spooner. The tour will spend two nights in Spooner (Tuesday 7/13 & Wednesday 7/14). We'll provide options for riders the layover day – both on bike and off bike options will be available. These will be sketched out in the pre-ride newsletter. Riders who have booked motels in Hayward should contact them as soon as possible and extend your booking in Spooner.

In the past when we have had a layover day the feedback from riders has been very favorable. Should be a great tour.

## **EXPAND YOUR BIKE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE:**

**SAFE CYCLING TRAFFIC SKILLS SEMINAR OFFERED IN MADISON, WI**

The League of American Bicyclists offers safety training for cyclists of any skill level. This two part seminar will be offered in Madison, WI on April 29th & May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are in the area, consider joining the seminar to expand your knowledge of safe cycling and cycle maintenance, and it's fun!

Details here: [www.bikeleague.org/cogs/programs/education/course\\_detail/3394](http://www.bikeleague.org/cogs/programs/education/course_detail/3394)

## **FIRST WEEK-LONG BIKE TOUR? BIKEWISCONSIN'S FIRST TIME RIDER PROGRAM IS FOR YOU!**

Calling all first time riders on GRABAAWR, Bike Northwoods, and SAGBRAW. Feeling both excited and nervous about your first big ride? Wondering if you've done enough pre-ride training? Concerned about safety, proper road etiquette and effective shifting while on the road? If this is the case, then the Bike Wisconsin **First Time Rider program** is for you. We are delighted to offer this one-of-a-kind program to all first time riders. You'll meet with a League of American Bicyclist Certified Safety instructor on the first day of the tour for instruction and follow-up during the week to see how things are going. Over 300 riders have participated in our first time rider program over the last five years. Some comments from past first time riders:

*"(the first time rider coordinator) sought us out, helped us with problems, was always positive and encouraging!" Eric C.*

*"I took advantage of some of the first time rider meetings and picked up very helpful information." Bill H.*

If you indicated on your registration that you are a first time rider, we will contact you prior to the tour and provide a rider readiness survey. If you'd like more information about this unique program, please visit the link below.

[www.bikewisconsin.com/FirstTimeRiders/index.html](http://www.bikewisconsin.com/FirstTimeRiders/index.html)

## **WHY DO WE RIDE?**

A recent Bikewisconsin BLOG asked the question: Why do we tour?

[bikewisconsin.wordpress.com/2010/03/04/3-4-2010-why-we-tour/](http://bikewisconsin.wordpress.com/2010/03/04/3-4-2010-why-we-tour/)

The answers are quite diverse and all meaningful. Recently we heard from Patti Hall (she and her husband, Van, are regulars on the Bike Northwoods and SAGBRAW tours). At this very moment she's out on the road, with a small but dedicated group, cycling across the southern tier of states and raising awareness for Spinal Cord Research. You can follow her quest via her BLOG. [www.pattibikes.blogspot.com/](http://www.pattibikes.blogspot.com/)

## **GRABAAWR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS! WE'RE LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF THE EARLY TOURS**

As all GRABAAWRIANS know, this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GRABAAWR. For the special celebration in Eagle River, we are looking to gather some early photos of the ride. If any riders have photos from the past 25 years (preferably 10 years or older) we'd love it if you could scan them and send them along. We will put together a tribute board for the party. We will also put together an on-line album on the Bikewisconsin FLICKR site so all riders can enjoy them. It would be easiest to send a 'link' to the site where your pictures reside, but if you want to send the pics directly to us, you can do so to: [MARK@BIKEWISCONSIN.COM](mailto:MARK@BIKEWISCONSIN.COM) Please take time to reduce the file size if possible. Thanks!

## **BIKE WISCONSIN WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE YOU GO ONLINE TO GET YOUR BICYCLE NEWS, INFO, AND TO INTERACT WITH OTHER BIKERS**

Do you hang out at Bikeforums.net? Love to read the reviews at roadbikereviews.com? Or do you have a FACEBOOK fix where you hook up with your paceline buddies? We'd love it if you took a few minutes to take this survey. We're interested to know where bikers hang out in the cyberworld to get their bicycling info. It will help us connect better with you and make your touring experience with us better. Just click the link below and take the survey. Want to win some bike stuff? We'll put your name in a drawing if you complete this survey. Thanks!

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/L2Q533Y](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L2Q533Y)

## **TWITTER, FACEBOOK, AND MORE!**

Remember to jump on our TWITTER and FACEBOOK pages and add to the conversation. By Tweeting about your training, new bikes, new gear, or any other fun stuff, you'll find out what others are up to as well. You can find us on Twitter by searching by any of the tour names. If you post a TWEET, make sure you use a 'hashtag' to help people find your tour-related notes: Include any of the following in the 'Tweet:' #grabaawr, #bikenorthwoods, #sagbraw.

### **Bike Wisconsin® Tour Facebook Pages (become a FAN!) GRABAAR®**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/GRABAAR/121879043365?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/GRABAAR/121879043365?ref=ts)

### **Bike Northwoods**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Bike-Northwoods/123425594925?v=wall&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bike-Northwoods/123425594925?v=wall&ref=ts)

### **SAGBRAW®**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/SAGBRAW/123494207028?v=wall&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/SAGBRAW/123494207028?v=wall&ref=ts)

### **Check out the new Bike Wisconsin® Blog (read all about it!)**

<http://bikewisconsin.wordpress.com/>

## **BIKEWISCONSINFORUM.COM**

Spring is upon us. It's light 'til almost 7PM so after work rides are on the agenda. Drop by the forum, start a thread, ask a question, and find out what other cyclists are up to before the tours. Be part of the community!

[www.bikewisconsinforum.com](http://www.bikewisconsinforum.com)

Happy Cycling!

From all the "spring is coming soon bikers" at Blkewisconsin.

Questions or comments are strongly encouraged at [info@bikewisconsin.com](mailto:info@bikewisconsin.com)

Two Bicycles and a Map, Ltd.

Bike Wisconsin®

PO Box 3142, Madison, WI 53704

Phone 608-843-8412

Email [info@bikewisconsin.com](mailto:info@bikewisconsin.com)

On the web at [www.bikewisconsin.com](http://www.bikewisconsin.com)