



# Quick Release

March 2019

Monthly meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month 7:30 PM at the Downtown ACPL, [900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802](#)

Next Meeting is March 7<sup>th</sup>

[BikeReg.com](#)

We have changed our online signup for membership and for the festival tour for your convenience. Follow the link above to join!



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## Dawn of a New Half Century

Patrick Stelte

I have written past columns about February being the worst month of the year for me and 2019 was no exception. I have joked on Facebook that February should be re-named 'Austero' or Latin for "Bleak." The grind of winter weather and lack of sun coupled with sickness all around puts me in mental hibernation. I try to find tidbits, granular nuggets of hope to keep the faint beam of spring's renewal on my horizon. Normally, I combat February with a few days of outdoor riding, but our wacky winter so far has restricted my expeditions to a trifle couple of days that haven't come close to years past. So, to counter-act my seasonal affective melancholy, I took the blue pill and joined Zwift to stanch the barren abyss of indoor training. My new online world has pulled me back from the edge and given me an agency of optimism that better days are coming. For now, riding with the bounty of virtual cycling aficionados will do.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, we closed the books on 50 years of Three Rivers Velo Sport with our annual party. The date was unusual compared to years past tradition of the first Friday in December because our venue, Sweetwater Sound, no longer offers outside organizations to use their conference room in December. However, the attendance was still over 100 club members and family and (from what I gathered) all had a good time. Andrew Gritmaker, our keynote speaker, mesmerized the audience with his story of competing solo in Race Across America. As usual, a plethora of awards were handed out for the September Touring Challenge and a variety of other riding disciplines. The night closed with special achievement awards that honored exceptional activism among our membership. Our 2018 Volunteer Spirit Award was given to Chuck South, a decades long member who has bridged the past with the present with his selflessness. For new members unfamiliar with Chuck, he was a touchstone for many in the club beginning in the 1970s. Chuck was always there to help with touring and racing, dedicating countless hours to his passion for cycling. I first heard of him back in the 80s through an acquaintance's tales of Chuck making steel frame bikes for friends.

We also added to our distinguished management legacy. Chuck Bash, long-time club member, club officer, ride organizer and legal writer of the club's incorporation, trademark and contributor to our constitution was honored with the 2018 Outstanding Leadership Award. Chuck was a bridge of recognition from our past with a second legacy award of the evening: Steve Pequignot for 2019 Outstanding Leadership Award. Most of you know Steve as our touring director for the last ten years. He stepped down at the end of 2018 and his dedication to the club merited immediate recognition. His tireless dedication to expanding the touring schedule, promoting cycling and the club, as well as administration of club official business will be missed greatly. Steve is still planning on riding with the club and I am sure, giving help and suggestions to those that inquire.



Patrick Stelte

As eluded to with Steve's retirement, the reins of touring director have been passed to Doug Wintin, a long-time club member. Some of you may know Doug from his help the last cou-

## Dawn of a New Half Century

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3RVS Touring

ple of years organizing Jamin' in Roanoke. He has a long history of cycling and racing. I have ridden with Doug many times and I can truly say that if Doug is on a ride, I have a friend in the group. Although he has big shoes to fill, he will give his best to our upcoming touring season. Also in 2019, we have a new club Secretary as Jennifer Altherr has stepped in for Johnny Grabowski. Jennifer is known for co-leading the City Tour, Destination Tours and leading the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jersey committee. She is a dedicated off-road rider and urban explorer and her passion for the club will be felt each month at our club meetings. When you see Doug and Jennifer this year, take a moment to thank them for their dedication and volunteerism. Without such members, there wouldn't be a club.

## Touring Report

Doug Wintin

This is my first newsletter article as Touring Director of 3 Rivers Velo Sport. I can tell you that my admiration of Steve Pequignot has skyrocketed! Steve held this position for 10 years, his dedication was unwavering and the hours he put in were staggering. Steve has been very helpful in making this transition as straightforward as possible and I truly do appreciate it. Thanks, Steve!

So what can you expect from me as Touring Director? First and foremost I want to make the rides as safe as possible. I have been struck twice by cars and I never want that to happen to you! To that end I will be looking to schedule rides that: 1) avoid state roads and 2) roads that are known to have a high traffic count. The roads are only part of the safety equation. All of us, as riders, play a major role in keeping the group safe. Follow the rules of 3RVS regarding the use of aero bars (exceptions can be made for medical reasons). Also please use the same guidelines regarding lying on top of drop bars. As a group, we will also be obeying traffic laws in developed areas and at all blind corners. Use your best judgement and remember that if you are on the front those behind will likely follow whatever you do. Make sure that it is just as safe for the last rider in the group as the first. Riders toward the back of the group should never enter an intersection if they do not feel safe. Do let those around you know your intentions. Lastly, a good rule of thumb is to assume that cars will not see you!



Doug Wintin

For the coming riding season we are going to divide the county into quadrants: North, South, East and West. Weekend rides will go in rotation around the county. The first weekend will be Saturday-North and Sunday-South. The following weekend will be Saturday-East and Sunday-West. This will continue for the rest of the season. If there is a charity ride or we have a weather cancelation we will make adjustments to the schedule. The goal is to have everyone riding close to home an equal number of times.

I am looking for some new ride start points around the county. I am doing this because we live in the largest county in Indiana and the drive times to the start points can feel excessive. My hope is to be able to shorten drive times to the weekend tours and in so doing increase club members attending. Criteria for the new sites include being easy to access and being able to leave the parking lot onto a county road. I have found two potential sites and will be contacting the owners. Both of the sites have direct access to county roads and are very close to I-469 (one site is only one tenth of a mile from the interstate!) If you know of any locations that meet the criteria, drop me a line or talk to me at a ride.

I would also like to know if there are any rides that the membership would like to see resurrected from the files of 3RVS. I know that I like the ride we used to take out to North Manchester. Are there any that you would like to see back in the rotation? Send me an e-mail and let's see what can be done. Keep hitting the trainer. Spring is right around the corner.

**Monday**

**Franke 6:30 PM**

Learn basic off road riding techniques. Meet at the trailhead parking lot. Respect the Trails - Stay off when condition pose a threat of damaging the trail.

**Thursday**

**Urban Exploring 6:00 PM**

Johnny Applesee Park (near the Tank)  
Distance: TBD  
Expect some offroading

**First Friday each Month**

**City Tour 6:30 PM**

Lawton Park, east end of parking lot  
Distance: 8-10 miles  
Pace: 10-12 mph

**March Show n' Go**

Date	Time	Start At	Destination/Pace Groups	Distance
3/2	12:00 PM	Homestead HS	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/3	11:45 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM	FFCU Flaugh Rd. Arcola	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/9	11:45 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM	FFCU Flaugh Rd. Arcola	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/10	12:00 PM	Homestead HS	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/16	12:00 PM	Homestead HS	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/17	11:45 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM	FFCU Flaugh Rd. Arcola	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/23	11:45 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM	FFCU Flaugh Rd. Arcola	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/24	12:00 PM	Homestead HS	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/30	12:00 PM	Homestead HS	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours
3/31	11:45 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM	FFCU Flaugh Rd. Arcola	Show n' Go B+ & others as show	2-3 Hours

## 3RVS CARES - Safe Passing Bill on its way to State Senate

Mona Will

Let me start off by saying, that I'm not a political person. I have never taken the time to understand the ins and outs of who proposes what ideas and then the channels that are used to bring a bill or act into being. Therefore the language I use may seem very elementary to some. But this is how I'm going to have to present it so that other non-political people like me, that are truly concerned about cyclists being safe on the roads can understand.

Back in January, I urged many of you to contact our state legislators about HB 1439 (House Bill 1439) and SB89 (Senate Bill 89) asking them to support the onward movement of these bills. Both of these bills were somewhat similar in their requests. SB89 was going to go to the committee on corrections and criminal law and HB1439 was going to be read/heard by the roads and transportation committee. In each of these bills the point was to create a "safe passing distance for overtaking a bicycle."

When both bills were being discussed but not going anywhere, another bill HB 1236 was being discussed too. HB 1236 was originally about defining e-bikes and where they could go, what they were allowed to do and not do. The author of HB1439, Representative Soliday (R) of Valparaiso, District 4, along with his co-authors Representatives Macer (D) of Wayne Township District 92 west side of Indianapolis, Reardon (D) from District 12 in the Hammond, Highland and Griffith area, and Heaton (R) District 46 of Indianapolis, amended HB1236 so that the safe passing was part of the bill. Wonders of wonders, HB 1236 passed through the House and is on its way to the Senate to be heard by a committee later this year. Word is maybe as early as end of February.



Mona Will

Many of you know that when riding out on the road, motorists tend to be very unpredictable in the way they pass. Some try to squeeze between the bike and the yellow line in the same lane. Others sit back, waiting patiently until there is no one coming from the opposite direction; they go into the opposing lane at a reasonable speed and pass safely. Then there are those that are best described by using curse words. Wouldn't it be grand if we as cyclists could rest assured, that no matter the size of the vehicle, the age of the driver, or what state we were riding in, we would be passed in a predictably safe manner?

"In 2016 Indiana had 721 bicycle collisions recorded. Nineteen (19) resulted in death, 282 resulted in incapacitating injuries. In the first nine (9) months of 2017, Indiana has recorded a total of 498 collisions with injury. Eight (8) resulted in death and 222 with incapacitating injuries. There is clearly an increase in the number of people riding bicycles and the need to raise awareness for their safety." Getting HB 1236 passed in the Senate would be lifesaving.

I ask each of you in the upcoming months to be at ready to send emails or make phone calls to the necessary appointed officials to ask for their vote in favor of this bill. Don't think that your voice won't make a difference. Remember that without our voices they won't know how important this is to us, our families, and our friends.

## Back and Expanded for 2019 The Kal-Haven Destination Tour

Amy Copeland

Friday June 7 - Sunday June 9

Ride Leaders: Amy Copeland and Jennifer Altherr

Trail surface: crushed limestone

Depart from Fort Wayne early morning Friday June 7 to carpool to Kalamazoo Michigan. Ride bikes on the 34 mile Kal-Haven Bike Trail (former rail trail). Spend Friday and Saturday nights South Haven. Saturday ride trails from South Haven along the lake. Sunday ride bikes back to Kalamazoo. Drive back to Fort Wayne Sunday.

If your bike does not have a rack to haul your clothing and toiletries, you could get creative and use a backpack or a pack that fits onto your bike.

Accommodations: Kal-Haven Outpost cabins is a new campground adjacent to the bike trail in South Haven. Each rustic cabin can sleep up 7 people and will be co-ed. Linens are included. \$321.90 per cabin fee will be split among participants.

Reserve your spot soon as people are already asking about doing this trip again: \$50/person non-refundable deposit (to cover cabins, firewood and other incidentals) to Amy Copeland. Due to space limitations participation is limited to club members only. If we fill up we will collect names of other interest parties to put them in touch with each other to see if they would like to go in together on an additional cabin. If that doesn't pan out, tent spaces are available for anyone who prefers a little more rugged experience.

Email Amy at: [membership@3rvs.com](mailto:membership@3rvs.com) to make arrangements.

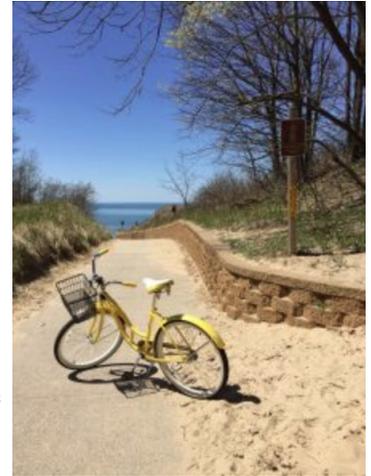
For additional information:

Kalhaven Bike Trail:

<http://www.kalhavenbiketrail.com/>

Kalhaven Outpost:

<https://www.kalhavenoutpost.com/>



### Three Rivers Velo Sport

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