



Quick Release



A publication of 3 Rivers Velo Sport Inc. Founded in 1969, 3RVS is an LAB, ACA and IMBA affiliated club, & member of the IBC, USCF and NORBA. Quick Release contains current and planned club biking activities and is distributed to all members. Submissions are due by the 15th of each month.

May 2000

The Bicycle Bulletin Board

Issue 2000.05

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May Cycling Quote:

"When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, ... when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road ..."

Arthur Conan Doyle, in an 1896 article for Scientific American

Be Glad You Don't Ride in Bogota, Columbia

BOGOTA, Columbia (AP) - Retired Columbian cycling hero Oliverio Rincon was freed in less than 24 hours by leftist guerrillas after being kidnapped for the second time this year.

Rincon's previous, month-long kidnapping-and the abduction earlier this month of the country's best-known cyclist, Luis Alberto "Lucho" Herrera, outraged sports fans and athletes in a country where kidnapping has become a thriving industry.

Rincon, released Thursday (March 30) night, drove his car to an army base just 30 miles from where he was abducted a day earlier in central Boyaca State, army anti-kidnapping chief Col. Jesus Bohorquez told Radionet Radio.

Bohorquez did not provide details.

WHAT'S THAT UNUSUAL ANIMAL?

May Program Preview

Imagine riding along on your bike in warm summer weather and seeing this strange animal. It looks something like, well, a cross between a porcupine and an anteater.

Actually, the animal is an Echidna. It is native to Tasmania, and you only can see it there. That is exactly what Club member Earnie Williamson did earlier this year on a bike trip in Australia and New Zealand. Besides the Echidna, Earnie saw kangaroos and wallabies out in the wild just like we might see a deer.



Sorry, thought you were one of them Echidnas!

Earnie will be telling us all about his down under bike trip at the next 3RVS Club meeting on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church. He will be bringing pictures too, so we all can check out what these strange animals really looked like.

Earnie spent a month, from January 9 to February 9, 2000, in Australia and New Zealand. His bike tour of Tasmania, which is a state in Australia, lasted 17 days. Then, he went to New Zealand for a 12-day bicycle tour. While in the two countries, Earnie rode about 1,000 miles.

No stranger to bicycle touring, Earnie took a cross-country bicycle trip last summer. He logged 3,580 miles on his bicycle during that trip, which began on May 15 in Los Angeles and ended on July 2 in Boston. While a trip like this might seem daunting to many of us, Earnie said he just took it one day at a time and had loads of fun along the way.

At the beginning of April this year, Earnie again was off on a bicycle tour. This time, he rode for a week in Florida. This ride began in Gainesville and included camping at night, similar to TRIRI.

Earnie is able to do so much traveling because he retired in February of 1999. Prior to that, he worked as an employee relation's manager for a paperboard packaging company in downtown Fort Wayne. Earnie moved to Fort Wayne in 1985 from Illinois to take a job here.

When he lived in Illinois, Earnie began cycling by riding a bike path there. He continued to ride after moving to Fort Wayne, but did not begin riding seriously until after he joined 3RVS in 1988. Since that time, he has been a regular participant in Club rides and has worked frequently at Club races and tours.

Please join Earnie at the Club meeting on May 4 to hear about his many cycling adventures, particularly his recent trip to Australia and New Zealand. **Karen Walker**

Read Earnie's Account on Page 7

President's Message



So many exciting things are happening with our Club, summarizing them in this short space is difficult. The combination of our new more central meeting location and some very interesting programs has significantly increased attendance at Club meetings. It also helps to have free food at the meetings, (right, Joe Bartels?) and some social time after meetings. Over thirty members attended the meetings in March and in April.

Thanks to the presenters at the April meeting, Cheryl Mathews, Jim Brown and Roger Kingsbery for their interesting program. I especially enjoyed Roger's talk on racing. He helped me better understand the racing program, and his display about racing was inspiring. And, thanks to Steve and Cindi Souers for bringing the snacks for the meeting. We have another interesting program planned for the May Club meeting, when Earnie Williamson will speak about his bike trip in Australia and New Zealand.

We also have had excellent turnouts for Club rides. The New Riders' ride in April brought out more than 60 cyclists. Touring Director Kathy Boling organized a great ride that day, which everyone seemed to enjoy. Cheryl Mathews and Barb Pontius have been working hard to start a social touring group, something the Club has needed for a long time. They met with interested persons after the Club meeting in April, and are well on their way to getting this new group, as Barb says, "off and rolling."

With the assistance of Treasurer, Kevin Truelove, I met in early April with the owners of the two local bike shops to discuss their support of our Club. Both Dean Koehlinger of Koehlinger Cycling and Fitness and Bob Mann of Summit City Bicycles graciously took time from their busy schedules to meet with us.

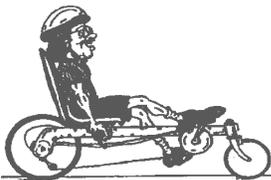
Besides making financial commitments to 3RVS, both of the shops will be accepting applications for Club membership and dues payments at their shops. This new way of paying membership dues should help increase our membership roles, as well as assist in getting the word out about our Club. Thanks to Club Officers, Mike Heyes, Kevin Truelove and Leslie Melcher, as well as Summit City owner Bob Mann and Koehlinger representative Kathy Boling, for working out the details of this new project.

As long as we meet the minimum order, we will be reordering Club Jerseys in May. We are continuing with the successful design of the past few years, which most Club members seem to like. Thanks to Steve Souers, who has volunteered to handle this project.

Anne Stratton and Kent Ellis are organizing this year's May Madness Tour, which will be May 13. Please volunteer to help Anne and Kent with the Tour. They cannot have a successful tour without the assistance of other Club members. If you volunteer a few hours to help out, you still will have plenty of time to ride. See you on the road.

Karen

The 11 Foot Chain Guy (a new column on the recumbent craze)



steering positions, wheelbases, wheel sizes, and even seat styles to choose from. Models and manufacturers differ drastically, and these differences are not insignificant! Do your homework. Search the internet, send off for literature, talk with recumbent owners, and take the time and effort necessary to educate yourself. It may seem a little overwhelming at first, but it can be fun and you will thank yourself later.

Thinking of buying a recumbent? These sleek, low-riding, bizarre-looking contraptions are becoming so popular that almost every bike shop is now carrying one or more lines. They are comfortable. They are fun. Because of a low center of gravity they handle exceptionally well. If you are wanting to spend more time on the bike with less pain, the recumbent may be your answered prayer.

But buyer beware! The recumbent is not for everyone (I'll address this in next month's issue). If you are considering the purchase of one, then you owe it yourself to research, research, and research. There are a many things to consider. Unlike the traditional diamond frame bicycles, there are various frame designs,

To get started, I would suggest the following: 1) Come to the 3RVS May Madness Ride on May 13. A group of us will be starting from Wayne High School at 8:30 A.M. Find us in the parking lot and check out the bikes. We would be glad to answer your questions. 2) Get Recumbent Cycling News. This is the only recumbent enthusiast publication in America. They review bikes and offer lots of tips for your first purchase. Call them at 253-630-7200 (the March/April 2000 issue is especially helpful). 3) Go to one of the bike shops here in town and check out what they have. Ask for a test ride. Don't be surprised if the sales person has little or no experience on a recumbent — this is all the more reason to do your homework. Take your time to consider all the factors before you make the investment. 4) Feel free to Email me at wbrane@ctlnet.com. I will do my best to answer your questions or help direct you to someone who can. 5) Be patient! Recumbent sales generally can't keep pace with stock; don't be surprised if you have to wait a few weeks for delivery. Do not make the mistake of buying something that is immediately available if it isn't exactly what you want — the wait will be worth it. If you already own a recumbent and want to be kept informed of local rides, Email me your mailing address.

Wendell Brane

May Touring Schedule - All Rides Start at 9:00am

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Location/Ride To</u>	<u>Map</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Saturday	May 6	Leo/Spencerville	LHS-5	26/44/50
Sunday	May 7	Homestead/Roanoke/N.Manchester	HHS-6	21/37/65
Saturday	May 13	May Madness Tour	special	11/20/43/63
Sunday	May 14	Woodlan/Cecil/Antwerp/The Bend	WLN-1	12/30/47/63
Saturday	May 20	Homestead/1997 Festival Tour Route	special	14/30/53/75
Sunday	May 21	Arcola/C.City/TriLakes/N.Webster	ARC-2	24/40/55/63/75
Saturday	May 27	Carroll/'Busco/Merriam/Ormas	CHS-3	23/39/54
Sunday	May 28	Dana/Busco	DCU-5	15/37/44
Monday	May 29	Hicksville Hundred	special	55/100

Ride Notes

• The Leukemia Team in Training riders may join the 3RVS riders on May 7 and May 21.

• **The New Sociables** riding group will meet for a **breakfast ride on May 6 and May 20**. There is more information about this new group on page 6 of this newsletter. Basically they aren't into the drooling, gasping for air while they ride scene.

• **Tuesday evening rides will start from Carroll High School this month. These rides average between 17-20 mph and are 20-30 miles in length. Bring a tail light for your safety. Start time is 6:00pm.**

• **Wednesday evening rides at Saturn are at 6:00. See page 6 for more information.**

May Madness Metric Century - May 13

Get your helmet on, put a bike between your legs, and come on out for the May Madness Metric Century. We'll ride through scenic Wells, Adams and Allen counties. This is the best early season ride in northern Indiana!

We'll provide road support, rest stops and refreshments on all the routes; you provide the fun. We're still looking for a few volunteers to help on ride day, so if you can help, please call Anne Stratton or Kent Ellis at 219-482-2845 or email us at Ellisstrat@aol.com. You can call for ride information too. **Anne**

Hicksville Hundred - May 29

The 20th Hicksville Hundred will be held Memorial Day, May 29th. This year's route will take riders through the scenic lake country of northeast Indiana.

100 mile riders will leave at **8AM Indiana time** from the Hicksville Building Loan parking lot. 55-mile-riders can join the 100 mile riders at the first sag stop in Ashley, Indiana at approximately 10AM. Both routes include a lunch stop at Wall Lake, near Orland.

Directions: 100 mile start - From Ft. Wayne, take Indiana Route 37 to Hicksville, Ohio. Note that Route 37 becomes Ohio Route 2. The Building Loan Bank is at the second traffic light on the near left corner. 55 mile start - Take I-69 to the Ashley exit and proceed west through town.

55-mile-start/100-mile-sag is at CR 23, which is the first intersection out of town. Turn left, park at the Leas farm immediately on the left.

A Word To The Wise

Please do not leave valuables in your car during Club rides. No one watches our cars while we are out riding. Although we have had very little trouble in the past, we still need to be careful.

Take your keys, lock your car and never leave valuables in the car when you are at Club rides. Don't tempt fate! **Karen**

Bike Rides in Indiana and Surrounding Areas

<http://www.cris.com/~mheyes/bikeIN/bikeIN.shtml>

<u>Ride Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Further Info.</u>
Park County Covered Bridge Tour	May 6	10 - 40	Rockville, Indiana	765-569-3430
Harmony Hundred	May 5-6	50 miles/day	Harmony, Indiana	812-682-3453
Pumpkinvine Rail Trail	May 20	20/35/62	Goshen, Indiana	219-266-4265
Tour de Max	May 20	10/30/63	Culver, Indiana	219-842-8846
Madison Meander	May 20	12/25/42/62	Madison, Indiana	812-273-3109
Duneland Half Century	May 21	15/30/50	Chesterton, Indiana	219-756-0957
Morse Lake Metric Century	May 21	15/30/62	Cicero, Indiana	317-923-5317
Horsey Hundred	May 26-28	30-100	Georgetown, Kentucky	www.bgcycling.org

May Training Schedule

Tues	5-2	5:30pm	Arcola Church	Circuit Race
Weds	5-3	5:30pm	Flaugh Rd.	Easy
Thur	5-4	7:30pm	Club Meeting	Mellow
Tues	5-9	5:30pm	Monson Church	Circuit Race
Weds	5-10	5:30pm	Carroll H.S.	Easy
Thur	5-11	5:30pm	Flaugh Rd.	Col.City R.R.
Tues	5-16	5:30pm	Jefferson M.S.	Circuit Race
Weds	5-17	5:30pm	Wayne H.S.	Easy
Thur	5-18	5:30pm	Homestead H.S.	S.Whitley R.R.
Tues	5-23	6pm	Flaugh Rd.	Circuit Race
Weds	5-24	6pm	Homestead H.S.	Easy
Thur	5-25	6:15pm	Wayne H.S.	Decatur R.R.
Tues	5-30	6pm	Harding H.S.	Circuit Race
Weds	5-31	6pm	Jefferson M.S.	Easy
Thur	6-2	6pm	Casa's West	Crit

SMOK'IN! CHECK THIS OUT

Have you ever ridden a century ride?
How about raced a century?
Wanna do both?

On **July 9** we will hold a **USCF sanctioned road race** beginning at 7:00am in conjunction with the 3RVS Festival Tour. The racers will start before the tour begins and basically follow the same course.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in both the men's and women's categories. Registrations for the race is between 6:00-6:45am.

Registration forms are part of the 3RVS Festival Tour flyers that will be available at area locations shortly. You can also get a form by visiting the club's website at www.3rvs.com.

For additional information, call Joe at 219-744-1675 or email him at AXNJoe@aol.com

USCF IN / KY Road / Criterium Championships-LAJORS June 10 - 11, Fort Wayne, IN

Further info: 219-744-1675 Email: AXNJoe@aol.com
<http://www.3rvs.com/krc>

May Area Racing Schedule

5/6	Springfield Weekend RR, Athens, IL	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/6	Eagle Creek Criterium, Indianapolis, IN	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/7	Park Forest Criterium, Park Forest, IL, 312-322-6952	< scwpgl@netzero.net >
5/7	Mooresville Classic, Mooresville, IN	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/12-14	Collegiate National Road Chmpships, Athens OH	< www.race-ncca.org >
5/13	FACT Classic RR, McConnell, IL	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/13	Tippecanoe State Park RR, Winamac, IN	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/14	U of Chicago Monsters of Midway Crit, Chicago, IL	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/14	Monrovia TT #1, Monrovia, IN	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/20	NORBA LCP Off-Road Fat Tire Challenge, Munster, IN	< www.nwibike.com >
5/20	AAVC Kensington RR, Ann Arbor, MI ,734-761-1603	< paul@quickrelease.com >
5/20	Eagle Creek Criterium, Indianapolis, IN	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/21	NORBA Dino Series #1, Linton, IN , 317-484-3322	< moorerest@earthlink.net >
5/21	Kokomo Tribune TT Series, Kokomo, IN , 765-883-5082	< rivella@juno.com >
5/21	Alberto's Sport TT, Hebron, IL	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/21	Columbus Criterium, Columbus, IN	< www.ambikerace.org >
5/27	CCCC TT Series #2, Traverse City, MI, 616-929-3196	< cccc@cherry-capital.com >
5/27	Fun Promotions Off-Road, Rockford, MI	< www.funpromotions.com >
5/28	The Great Race, Goshen-Elkhart, IN	219-295-8020
5/28	Saturn Training Series, Lansing, MI	517-347-7572
5/28	Twilight Street Sprints, Rock Island, IL, 309-797-3790	< tburke@qonline.com >
5/29	Quad Cities Criterium, Rock Island, IL, 309-797-3790	< tburke@qonline.com >

FYI (simple but sweet)

Have you ever heard someone say "I get a headache after a ride"?

Well, dehydration could be a contributing factor. Try to drink more fluids for two hours after your ride. And drink more fluids two to three hours before you go out on your next ride. You'll feel and perform alot better when you are well hydrated.

Here's a Rule of thumb - If your urine is yellow, you could be dehydrated. If it is clear your good to go.

Or have you ever been riding behind someone when they are digging and complaining of an ingrown something or another? Two things on this: 1) Wear CLEAN riding clothes every time you go out to ride 2) Try to take a shower as soon as possible after every ride. If these two don't help, find your own answer.

Recovery time got you down? Eat as soon as you can after a ride. Or at least within the first hour of it. And don't forget to drink plenty of water also.

Drink, clean, eat and be merry. Most of all ride hard!

From The Fat Tired Guy

Here's the FTG's weather prediction for May: The days will generally be warmer with earlier sunrises and later sunsets. Sounds like an ideal month for some saddle time! Here's what we've got planned:

Saturday, May 6 - Real Off Road --Go north with us to some of the finest trails in the area. If the mud dries we'll visit the Pioneer Scout Reservation one last time before the camping season starts. The backup destination is Fort Custer, a favorite of many. Meet at 8am for carpool or caravan at Bob Evans Restaurant, Dupont at I-69.

Saturday, May 13 - Join the Roadies -- This is the date for the annual 3RVS May Madness Bicycle Tour. Leave Wayne High School between 7 and 9am.

Sunday, May 21 - Urban Singletrack -- It's hard to beat Franke Park for urban trails. You will want to check out the new stuff too. Gather at the Foellinger parking lot at 3pm.

Monday, May 29 - The Hicksville Hundred -- Be a Skinny Tired Guy (Gal). Join the Fat Tired Guy for a tour through the scenic Indiana lake country. Distance options are 50 and 100 miles. Check out the Touring Schedule page for details.

For more info contact Phil at 419-542-8971 or bikenphil@aol.com.

3RVS Club Jersey Order Form

Once again everyone has an opportunity to order one of those cool club jerseys. These will be the same style as before (see photo). The fabric and sizing is the same as prior years. If you are uncertain about the size, contact Steve and he can put you in touch with a club member so you can test the fit. We'll collect the orders first and send it in. Payment upon delivery, expected in early July. **Short Sleeves cost \$50; Long Sleeves cost \$55. Please return the order form by May 20th.** Questions? Call Steve at 219-482-2094.



Quick Release

This is a publication of 3 Rivers Velo Sport, Inc., as the astute reader would have learned from the top of page 1. It is published 12 or so times a year, and is distributed to all club members free of charge. Well, you do have to pay your dues to receive *Quick Release*, but beside that small detail, it's free of charge to members.

3 Rivers Velo Sport

3RVS Inc. is a bicycling organization based in Fort Wayne, Indiana which promotes bicycling as a healthy, fun, energy efficient, lifelong activity for persons of all ages. The club sponsors a range of activities offering the benefits of group cycling to riders interested in touring, racing and off-road riding. Special thanks to the following:

- Webmaster Michael Heyes
mheyes@concentric.net
- Membership Leslie Melcher
lvmelcher@msn.com

B

M

X

Fort Wayne BMX - Franke Park

Contact John Tescula
(219) 747-2515 (H) (219) 484-6338 (T)

Race Schedule for May: 7, 12, 29

Race Times: Sunday registration is 1:30-2:30 p.m. and race ASAP. Tuesday and Friday registration is 5:45-6:45 p.m. and race ASAP. Practice Times: 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Race Fees:** Points & Trophy \$9.00 (non-members) \$8.00 for members, Plaque Series \$6.00 (non-members) \$5.00 for members, Points only \$5.00 (non-members) \$4.00 for members and Practice is \$1.00. **Double Header Races** are July 9, August 13 and October 8. The second race will start 30 minutes after the first race ends! State Qualifier is July 15 & 16 and practice will be July 14 with a \$5.00 fee. Awards Banquet is November 4.

Please indicate quantity for each:

- Mens Long Sleeve ___S ___M ___L ___XL
- Mens Short Sleeve ___S ___M ___L ___XL
- Womens Long Sleeve ___S ___M ___L ___XL
- Womens Short Sleeve ___S ___M ___L ___XL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ W) _____

email _____

Send Order Form BY MAY 20TH to:
Steve Souers, 2517 Florida Drive, Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

The Sociables Update

Hi Sociables! Yes, that is now our group's official name.

In May we will be joining the rest of the Club members on the breakfast rides scheduled for Saturday May 6 and May 20. The ride distances will range between 25 - 35 miles. We will ride as a group, staying together and enjoying our easy pace while getting to know each other. Faster members of the club will probably already be at the restaurants when we arrive.

Starting in June, Sociable's members may volunteer to lead a ride of their choice. These rides will have a starting point of the leader's choice. On weekends that for which we haven't planned a volunteer-led tour, the Sociables can ride the 3RVS Club rides as a group. Please contact Barb to set a date to lead a ride of your choice by sending an email to her at **BHPontius@aol.com** or phone **219-485-5187**. If you wish to lead a June ride, please contact Barb before May 14 so the ride plans are sent to Mike in time for the next newsletter.

Barb & Cheryl

Attention Recumbent Cyclists

A group of recumbent riders will be participating in the 3RVS's may Madness on May 13th. Meet at Wayne High School at 8:30am where we will start together. This will be a great opportunity to meet each other, check out each other's bikes, exchange ideas and promote the fun, comfort and safety of recumbents. Anyone interested in learning more about recumbents is encouraged to join us as well.

Wendell Brane

Saturn Rides Going Strong

The Saturn rides will continue at 6 pm on Wednesday nights in May, except when the weather is really awful. They begin at Saturn Christian Church, which is on County Road 800 South in Whitley County just a mile west of County Line Road.

The speed for these rides averages about 15 to 16 miles an hour. We ride at a fairly quick touring pace, but not so fast that we cannot discuss world events while we ride. If you have any questions about these rides, please contact Karen Walker at 747-2420 or Susan Hunt at 424-2030.

Bike Shops Sponsor Club

Koehlinger Cycling and Fitness and Summit City Bicycles have supported 3RVS for years in various ways. However, this year, the two local bike shops will become official sponsors of our Club, particularly to assist with the Three Rivers Festival Tour and Road Race, scheduled for July 9.

Summit City and Koehlinger each have generously offered to donate a \$100 gift certificate, which will be used as the first prizes in the men's and women's categories for the Road Race. The Road Race is a new event the Club is adding to this year's Three River's Festival activities. The 100-mile Road Race will follow a route similar to the Tour, and will begin just prior to the Tour.

In addition, the two bike shops will be donating the money to purchase the water bottles for the Road Race and Tour. In the past, we have given water bottles adorned with the Club logo to registrants for the Tour. This year, we plan to give water bottles to everyone registered for both the Tour and Race. The water bottles will contain the Club logo, as well as the logo for each of the bike shops.

The two bike shops also are handing out informational brochures about 3RVS to anyone who expresses interest, particularly customers purchasing new bikes. The shops will be collecting 3RVS membership dues at all their locations too.

And, if this isn't enough, both shops continue to give a five percent discount to all 3RVS members. To get your discount when making a purchase at the shops, you must present either a membership card for this year with your name on it or a newsletter with an address label showing an expiration date of January 2001. You can pick up your membership card at Club meetings.

We want to extend a big thank you to Dean Koehlinger, owner of Koehlinger Cycling and Fitness, and Bob Mann, owner of Summit City Bicycles, for the generous support they continue to give 3RVS and for their support of cycling.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	3 Rivers Velo Sport 2000 Membership Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Touring <input type="checkbox"/> Off-Road <input type="checkbox"/> Racing <input type="checkbox"/> Commuting
Name _____ Age _____ Date _____ Address _____ Email _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ City _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check to receive newsletter by email <input type="checkbox"/> Check to not be included on membership roster available to other bike related groups		
Signature(s) (Parent or guardian if under 18) _____		
Fees: \$10 Individual, \$15 Family. In signing this form, I acknowledge the inherent danger of bicycling and agree on behalf of myself, my heirs, devisees or estate to hold 3RVS, Inc. and its members harmless for loss, damage, injury/death to myself or dependents as a consequence of participating in activities of 3RVS, Inc. Make check payable to 3RVS. Return to 3RVS, PO Box 11391, Ft. Wayne, IN 46857-1391		

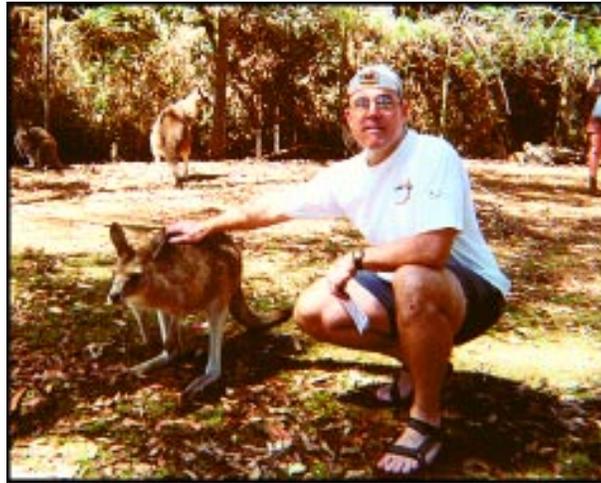
Adventures Down Under

by Earnie Williamson

maintain fitness over the winter. I figured that I would find multiple excuses for not riding the wind trainer, so I looked for a trip in the first part of the year where it was warm. I initially signed up with the tour company that did the Cross-country trip. Because of Y2K complications, they canceled theirs, but were kind enough to recommend a New Zealand based company, PEDALTOURS.

PEDALTOURS has a fantastic web site. I looked over the many tours they offered and pieced together a 19-day ride in Tasmania, Australia and a 12-day tour on the North Island of New Zealand. I chose to rent a bike, as I did not want the expense of shipping my bike or hassles of taking it with me on the plane. Of all my decisions, this is the only one I regretted. While the bikes I got were acceptable, they were not of the quality to which I have become accustomed and I spent a lot of time tweaking it to get the saddle just right and the height and the gearing, etc.

The flight over was very long, 33 hours from Fort Wayne to Hobart, Tasmania, which included a 5-hour layover in L.A. I was pretty toasted by the time I got there. There were 5 of us on the Taz tour. Tasmania is an island off the southeast coast of Australia. Because of its topography, mountainous in the west, and the prevailing winds, westerlies, there are several "micro-climates." Over the course of the trip we rode from sea level to about 5000 feet. It was hot the first couple of days with easterly headwinds. There was a support van, driven by our guide, which followed us. Of course they drive on the left side of the road, so that was always a challenge. We stayed in very nice motels or lodges. The tempo of the ride is very relaxed; breakfast each morning was usually about 7:30 or 8:00. In the mountains, some of the folks would sag to the top of some of the hills. In the mountains we ran into cold weather and rain. As our guide said one day when it was miserable; it was not rain, it was molten snow.



After my Cross-country trip last year, I wanted to try to

Tasmania is very hilly once you leave the coast. We saw a large number of road kill. It hurt my heart to see wallabies, Tasmanian devils, possum (different from ours, but just as unable to get across a road alive), and wombats. Tasmania is a bit primitive once outside one of the two major cities. Roads were good and the drivers mostly cooperative. Some of the folks had a problem with the traffic, but I did not find it difficult at all. My memory of Tasmania is that it was very hilly and windy with some beautiful vistas from the mountains and a great deal of diverse terrain.

On the New Zealand tour, we had 12 people and I had a roommate. Tom is a Captain with the NY Fire Department. His beater travel bike is a Litespeed Titanium, so he is a pretty serious rider. I did not realize that NZ and Australia were so far from each other, 1300 miles. We had two guides and two support vans. As in Tasmania, they buzzed around us during the day and made lunch for us on the route. We had maps each day, but there are not a whole bunch of roads, so navigation was pretty easy. NZ was a lot more scenic and the people seemed friendlier. It is a pretty young country, founded in the mid 1800s by people who wanted to be there, as opposed to Australia that was initially used as a penal colony. We rode through the mountain valleys and some of the views were beautiful. I was told that the South Island is prettier and less populated, but I was pretty impressed with the North Island. The people in our group came from all over the US and England. We had the opportunity to stay on two farms and eat dinner and talk with the families. Lots of lamb and mutton for dinner.

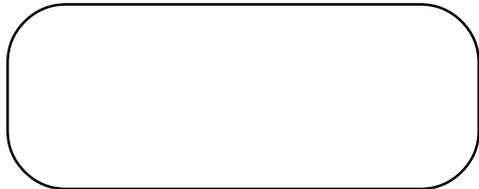
We rode about 600 miles in Tasmania and about 400 in NZ, but these tours are more relaxed than most of the tours I have ridden in the US. I am glad I rode in Tasmania, but will probably not go back again. New Zealand, on the other hand, was great and I want to go back and do other parts of the North Island and go onto the South Island as well.

Quick Release by Email

The April newsletter was sent electronically to 43 club members! If you would like to receive a full color newsletter by email in the Acrobat Reader format **instead** of by regular mail, please email Leslie at lvmelcher@msn.com, or check the appropriate box on the 3RVS membership application.

Welcome to 3RVS' New Members:

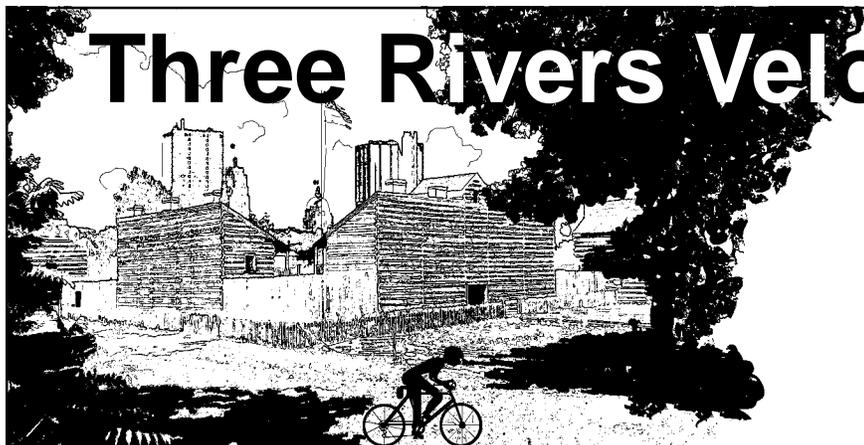
Karmon & Phil Young, Nancy Lambright, Eric and Bracy Brooks, Marika Krech-Poneto, Jim Bugert, Tom Switzer and returning member Jim Griffin



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May 2000 Newsletter

A FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
BICYCLE ORGANIZATION

Next 3RVS Club Meeting

When: Thursday, May 4, at 7:30 pm

Where: First Wayne St. United Methodist Church, 300 E. Wayne St.

May Meeting Program

Earnie will be telling us all about his down under bike trip to New Zealand. He will be bringing pictures too, so we all can check out the people and strange animals there.

3RVS Club Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone (219)</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Karen Walker	747-2420	cougargalkw@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Kevin Truelove	432-6219	KTrue@aol.com
Secretary	Kit Conrad	422-6332	teacher@tk7.net
Racing	Joe Bartels	744-1675	AXNJoe@aol.com
Touring	Kathy Boling	432-5526	bikemom@ctlnet.com
Off-Road	Phil Snider	419-542-8971	Bikenphil@aol.com
Publicity	Your Name		Please volunteer to help!
Newsletter	Michael Heyes	489-7040	mheyes@concentric.net
	website	www.3rvs.com	
	email	mail@3rvs.com	
Membership	Leslie Melcher	486-9808	lvmelcher@msn.com