

**The Acorn**  
**2009 Cycling Season**



**From the President's Pen**

The 36th Season of the Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club officially begins with the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Board of Directors at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Sunday, January 18th, 2009. For our "New Members" the meeting will be held at our clubhouse, located at 3 Dewey Cannon Avenue, across from Dewey Cannon Park, in the Village of Three Oaks, as for you old, old timer's, just show up on time. We will review and discuss the 2009 Apple Cider Century, and review the 2009 Ride and Events Schedule, followed by refreshments of Sloppy Joe's, w/chips, cake and conversation.... **NOTE:** The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. to review the 2009 budget and related topics. For all you "New Members", this is the **ONLY** meeting that we have during the year, and the rest of the time we eat, and eat, and eat, and oh, did I mention we also ride our bicycles?

**2009 Apple Cider Century** registrations are ahead of last year and we have received over 700 entries to date and local merchants have commented on the increase in business due to the cyclists being located within the Village. We have received many positive comments from the participating cyclists regarding moving the ride into the Village of Three Oaks. We will continue to make improvements and adjustments as needed to make the ACC a memorable experience for all participants and workers. Member input and suggestions on improving the ACC are welcome and appreciated.

**The Dewey Cannon Trading Company** which officially opened its doors to the public on May 11, 2006 has been a success thus far. Our 2008 product sales are down about 40% from total sales of \$10,000 in 2007 to \$6,000 thus far in 2008. The drop in sales is closely related to the economic down turn of the economy, but what can we do... just hang in there like everyone else. The bicycle rentals were down about 20% from the \$5,600 in 2007 to \$4,500 in 2008, there were fewer weekend rentals along the lake because less people were renting cottages according to the bed & breakfasts and rental offices. Our marketing plan for 2009 for the bicycle rentals will be to increase our marketing to the tourist area along the lake, at bed and breakfasts, rental cottages and real estate offices. With the opening of the Green Door Dairy restaurant next door we should see an increase in customers in 2009 (it opened on July 1st, 2008).

**New Members Wanted:** Copies of the January 2009 Acorn newsletter will be available at the Annual Meeting for pickup and distribution by the members to prospective cyclists. If you know of a friend or cycling partner that you think would make a good member or meet a cyclist this summer, please let them know about our great organization and offer them a copy of the Acorn. Also tell them that we only have one official meeting per year and they are asked to help out in some way for the Apple Cider Century (Packet Stuffing, Sweep Roads or Apple Cider Weekend), we want active members, not just names... And we don't want members that just come to eat the free food in the summer and then don't help earn it..

**Wednesday Night Ride Schedule Changes:** It has been brought to my attention that alternate destinations should be offered for members not wanting to ride the hilly terrain in La Porte County to some of our Wednesday night locations. For future rides there will be less challenging routes and restaurant destinations offered because as a club we should accommodate ALL of our members, not just the seasoned riders. We will still be riding to Rio's in New Buffalo for Mexican delights, to Mario's in Union Pier for pizza and sandwiches and No Where Bar in Saguan Lake for burgers & dogs. New additions for 2009 will be the Green Door Dairy next door for Chicago Style Dogs and sandwiches and a return to Little Tavern Two in Rolling Prairie for burgers and sandwiches. The first ride is on April 1st and the final ride on September 9th due to the shortened daylight hours.

**2009 Ride and Events Schedule** begins with the first official ride on St. Patrick ride on Saturday, March 14th at 2:00 p.m. — weather permitting. Should it snow or rain we will just sit around and talk and enjoy a bowl of 'hot' potato soup and fresh homemade bread. The Spring Breakfast ride will be held on Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m. after which, the season is in full swing. So read the Ride and Events schedule and plan to attend as many rides as possible, remembering that you don't have to be an expert rider to participate, we have all levels of riders and we are a recreational club not a racing club. We ride for exercise and to meet friends and enjoy a good conversation while riding. When we all started into cycling, we were ALL beginner's, come join us on a ride and then when you come ride a second time, you will no longer be a beginner...

**CALL AHEAD** would like to remind everyone to be sure and 'Please Call Ahead' when indicated next to a Ride/Event, because I need to know how much food to prepare based on the number of members planning on attending the ride.

**Here ye, here ye...one and all...** I wish to introduce the newest member to the Volstorff family, for on November 1, 2008 I married Carol Kelly-Volstorff, my wife and the love of my life.

May God bless and keep you...

**Bryan Volstorff, President**



**Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club**  
**Officers and Board of Directors Duties of Position**

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| <b>President /Executive</b> | Manages all club business on a daily basis, purchasing agent, legal documents, bookkeeping, tax returns. Organizes Apple Cider Century, Executive Director of Dewey Cannon Trading Company, Backroads Bikeway trails, and Bicycle Rentals. Program Director for all Three Oaks Spokes club functions, ride planning, food and entertainment, club newsletter. |
| <b>Vice-President</b>       | Authorized to perform duties of President in his absence. Co-sign checks, deposit and withdraw funds if necessary.  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>            | Co-sign checks, deposit and withdraw funds, balance the checking/savings accounts.  |
| <b>Secretary</b>            | Take minutes at Annual and Board of Director meetings. Coordinate work schedules for Apple Cider Century and co-sign checks.  |
| <b>At Large Director</b>    | Any qualifying member regardless of Region  |
| <b>North Region</b>         | Stevensville, St. Joseph, Benton Harbor Coloma and Eau Claire   |
| <b>East Region</b>          | Baroda, Berrien Springs, Galien, Niles and Buchanan   |
| <b>South Region</b>         | Michigan City, Laporte, New Carlisle, Rolling Praire and Michiana Shores  |
| <b>West Region</b>          | Three Oaks, New Buffalo, Lakeside, Sawyer and Bridgman  |