



# SPOKE FOLK BICYCLE CLUB

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## FEBRUARY 2010

### TOPICS THIS MONTH

- EAGLE WALK REPORT
- MINUTES FROM FEB 3 SPOKE FOLK MEETING
- YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BIKE SAFETY BILL
- TREASURER UPDATE
- PLANS FOR SPOKE FOLK SPRING KICK-OFF RIDE and May Bike to Work Week
- RAGBRAI LAST CHANCE DATES, FORMS, & INFO

### EAGLE WALK REPORT

The fourth annual Eagle Walk took place January 9 at Bridge View Center in Ottumwa. The actual walk was cancelled due to bitter cold temperatures; however, seven eagles were so eager to see Ottumwans that they performed a fishing demonstration right outside the Bridgeview windows! Humans who ventured to Bridge View for the Eagle Walk festivities were not disappointed! Josh Gettings represented both Riverside Cyclery and Spoke Folk at a booth in the event.



### FEBRUARY 3 MEETING MINUTES

The February Spoke Folk club meeting took place Wednesday, February 3, 7PM at North Hy-Vee. Attending the February meeting were: Josh Gettings, Eve Schindler, Don Pettengill, Billy Young, Fred Schindler, and Lynda Field.

Topics of discussion included the Spoke Folk Post Office box, which has been renewed. The box number will remain the same for at least the next 6 months, so members can send registrations to it without fear of the "return to sender" message that had occurred earlier. Other topics included plans to encourage the posting of more "Bike Route" signs in and around Ottumwa, and plans for our spring kick-off party, Bike to Work Week, and RAGBRAI.

**YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BIKE SAFETY BILL** Please take 5 minutes to follow the link below. This bill will help all of us. Sample letters and a page with your congresspersons' emails will be at your fingertips!

<http://www.bikeiowa.com/asp/features/featuresdisplay.asp?ArticleID=1050>

**NEW TREASURER** Lynda Field has agreed to be the new treasurer for Spoke Folk, and already scored a major victory in getting the post office box situation straightened out. Unfortunately, Lynda informs us that she has accepted a job in Nebraska, and will need to vacate the role of Spoke Folk treasurer as of June first.

### **SPOKE FOLK SPRING KICK-OFF RIDE (Also serves as the March monthly meeting)**

In defiance of weather trends for cold and snow so far this year, the Spoke Folk will meet to celebrate spring on Saturday, March 6. The new season of weekly Spoke Folk rides will officially start with a 9:00 a.m. brunch at Schindlers': 418 Bryan Road. (Look for the number on mailbox, across the street from long gravel driveway). Pancake and waffle brunch will be followed by a ride in the warm sunshine. Bring your helmet, bike, positive thoughts for sunshine and warmth, and your favorite pancake/waffle topping. If it's snowing, just bring the topping. RSVP 641-684-7288

### **MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH**

National Bike-to-Work Week 2010 will be May 17-21 and Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 21. Mark the dates on your calendars, and plan to pedal. Wapello County Trails Council, the commission that improves our route choices further each year, is planning a Mediathon at the Bridge View Center. Tips For Trails will be held at the Hotel Ottumwa TomTom Tap. Celebrities will serve as bartenders, donating their tips to the WCTC.

### **RAGBRAI IMPORTANT DATES, FORMS AND INFO**

RAGBRAI XXXVIII is upon us! This year's route has been announced at the RAGBRAI website: <http://ragbrai.com>

There, you will find details about the 440 mile route from Sioux City (July 25) to Dubuque (July 31). Maybe because of so many days of snow cover thus far in 2010, there seem to be many Spoke Folk registrations this year! Also, it is the fifth flattest and sixth shortest route in RAGBRAI history. Be sure you don't miss the looming deadline for group registration, if you plan to join us. We believe there are still a few seats available on the Spoke Folk bus.

Here's what you will need to be registered for RAGBRAI:

#### **COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TO SPOKE FOLK BY FEBRUARY 24th DEADLINE**

1. Spoke Folk 2010 club membership application – available on the club website ([www.spokefolkbike.com](http://www.spokefolkbike.com))
2. RAGBRAI waiver - available on the club website ([www.spokefolkbike.com](http://www.spokefolkbike.com))
3. Spoke Folk RAGBRAI rider form (bus and gear service) - available on the club website ([www.spokefolkbike.com](http://www.spokefolkbike.com))
4. Submit the above forms along with applicable fees to **Spoke Folk** by the Feb. 24th deadline. Make checks payable to **Spoke Folk**.
5. Register online on RAGBRAI's official website ([www.ragbrai.com](http://www.ragbrai.com)) –See below:

#### **RAGBRAI XXXVIII ONLINE REGISTRATION AND INFO**

All participating Club members must be registered through RAGBRAI's official online registration system. Go to their website ([www.ragbrai.com](http://www.ragbrai.com)), click on "Registration/Entries" on the left-hand side of the page, then click on "Complete an entry form online", then follow the steps to login and register. Spoke Folk's club registration ID number is 0076. If you register through the website, but have not submitted a Club membership application (see above) and the appropriate sign up forms and fees (see below) by the deadline, your online registration will be deleted from the system.



**THE ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SPOKE FOLK CLUB MEMBERS IS MARCH 1st, HOWEVER ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CLUB BY FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> so that we can mail them to RAGBRAI by March 1st.**

**If you have any questions about registering online, or if you do not have online/internet access, please contact Josh at 641-682-0630 and he will help you get registered.**

**If you miss the Feb. 24th Club registration deadline, you still have an opportunity to participate in RAGBRAI, but will have to register as an individual rider to be eligible for selection in the “lottery”, results of which will be known as of May 1st.**

**MAKE ALL CHECK PAYMENTS PAYABLE TO “SPOKE FOLK”.**

**ALL “official” RAGBRAI fees (week-long and/or daily rider fees, souvenir pack fees, merchandise, etc.), AND the Spoke Folk annual membership fees, MUST be paid in full by the Feb. 24th deadline. The remaining Spoke Folk rider fees (for bus and gear service) may also be paid by Feb. 24th, or you may choose to delay this payment to no later than June 1st .**

**REFUNDS** Official RAGBRAI fees (paid to Spoke Folk) are nonrefundable after June 1st. A \$35 processing fee per applicant is deducted for refunds prior to June 1. No refunds will be made after June 1.



2009 Spoke Folk in Council Bluffs ready to begin RAGBRAI.