

FEBRUARY 2010

# Waterloo County Wanderers

*Wanderers! Spring is Just around the Next Bend in the Road!*

## **SPRING SOLSTICE:**

On March 20<sup>th</sup> the sun will be directly over the equator and both day and night will be exactly 12 hours long. After that the days will get longer, the nights shorter and (hopefully) it will get warmer, the snow will melt and we can start cycling!

## **POT LUCK**

It's only fitting that our start of season Pot Luck is also coming up at Emmanuel United Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**When:** Saturday, **March 20<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30 pm  
with dinner at 6:00 pm

**Where:** 22 Bridgeport Road W. Waterloo  
(use parking lot entrance off Albert St.)

**You Bring:** A food dish (your choice)

**We Supply:** Pop, coffee, tea, glasses, plates, cutlery, etc.

We would appreciate some help in setting up and placing signs at 5:00 and in cleanup after the potluck. Please let Joan and / or Hans know if you can help.

## **MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

Because of all your volunteer help we are able to hold the annual fee at \$40.00 again. Your organizers will be ready after dinner on March 20<sup>th</sup> to sign you up. It'll make it easier for all if you'll download both membership application and an insurance waiver from our website and fill it out beforehand. For those who can't make the Pot Luck, aside from missing a great evening, you'll be able to join up before rides starting **April 13<sup>th</sup>** in St. Jacobs.

## **THE AFTER RIDE EXPERIENCE**

As the old timers know, we like to give everyone an opportunity to sample various restaurants in our area for an after ride snack and refreshment, as well as doing some club socializing. At the beginning of this season we will once again be meeting at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in St. Jacobs, only a few blocks from our start location.

## **CLUB JERSEYS**

We have a good number and size range of the blue Club Jerseys as well as a modest selection of the bright yellow jerseys in smaller sizes. We are happy to be able to still offer these quality Sugoi jerseys for \$75, GST and PST included and these will be available at the Pot Luck.

## **JEFF VAN DOORMAAL**

Jeff has been one of your organizers for quite a few years and the entire club has benefited from his hard work and commitment. However, Jeff is going to be extremely busy in 2010 with a major construction project that will keep him out of town for a good part of the time and so he will be resigning from the organizing committee. He still hopes to cycle with us from time to time. We would like thank Jeff for all of his help, advice and hard work over the years.  
THANK YOU JEFF, FROM ALL OF US AT WCW.

## **SUMMER CYCLING ADVENTURE WEEK**

In previous years we've enjoyed cycling around Manitoulin Island and, in 2009, in the Prince Edward County area. However, because of modest turnouts in 2009, your organizers will only offer a repeat cycling adventure if enough club members are prepared to commit well in advance.

## **MEMBER'S CORNER**

A number of the club members have gotten together on weekends throughout the winter to enjoy the snow by cross country skiing with their cycling friends. As a grand Finale to that season, an intrepid group will travel to Huntsville and ski in the beautiful Muskoka highlands and Algonquin Park.

## **SAFETY**

Since most of our rides are on local roads, that we share with other traffic, most of which is bigger than a bicycle, it's extremely important that all of us take some basic safety precautions when riding.

Our website includes a number of links on how to ride safely; however, we also ask you consider the following:

- We ride single file when cars are present
- use hand signals to indicate turns or stops to both motorists and fellow cyclists.
- Use the over the shoulder visual check to ensure that turns can be made safely.
- Ride single file on roads with regular vehicular traffic, and if riding side by side, keep checking the mirror and be prepared to move over for traffic.
- Carry a flashing warning light (red) for traffic to see you from behind at dusk and, if at all possible, a similar white flashing light for oncoming traffic.
- If possible wear brightly coloured clothing so that you stand out to drivers of cars and trucks.
- when passing another cyclist, say "**passing**" or "**passing on your left**".
- "**Car Back**" This is the standard warning to other cyclists of vehicles approaching from behind.
- Lastly, always remember that in a motor vehicle / bicycle collision, the cyclist always loses.**

***This year's ride schedule is now on our web site:***

**[www.intown.net/wcw](http://www.intown.net/wcw)**

***Happy and Safe Cycling*** (very soon)

### **Your Organizers**

Joan Sketchley [JLSketchley@sympatico.ca](mailto:JLSketchley@sympatico.ca)  
519-577-8935

Hans Pottkamper [HansP@golden.net](mailto:HansP@golden.net)  
519-669-2281

Peter Walesch [PWalesch@intown.net](mailto:PWalesch@intown.net)  
(Web Master)