



# Joliet Bicycle Club Newsletter



Joliet Bicycle Club

## President's Corner



Happy Valentines! Come out and join us at Channahon Lanes for at the annual JBC Chili Cook off and Bowling February 17 at 6 pm. We will even squeeze in a short meeting

before the bowling fun starts. This will also be a great opportunity to try on sample jerseys and order a JBC bicycling jersey or jacket etc to get ready for a busy cycling season. Jim Lambert, JBC Vice President is coordinating this order.

We Need JBC Volunteers to sign up for our July 4th Metric Century Invitational Ride. Steve Mitoraj will have a sign up sheet at the Chili/Bowl. See you at the Chili Cook off and Bowling.

**Ryan DeRose**

## Order your new JBC jerseys and shorts

Its time to order JBC jersey and gear. Jim Lambert is working behind the scenes to have a FITKIT ready for try-on sizing at

the Chili Cook Off and Bowling night. Bob Kehoe will be his assistant and will be taking orders . Bring your check book. In

the past we have been able to order from several jersey designs and styles with matching cham- ois shorts.

Volume 32, Issue 2  
February, 2018

**JBC Welcomes new member Dick Chisholm of Orland Park.**



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## JBC Board and Committee Contacts

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## Reporting Miles, Ride Calendar, Membership

Ride leaders or whomever is in charge for the ride should report miles for daily JBC rides listed on the calendar and for Ad Hoc Rides. Please send the Ride #, date, and list of riders in alphabetical order, and their miles to:

miles@jolietbicycleclub.com

Mileage reports should be sent within 3 days of the ride.

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***Renew your JBC membership . Dues are \$15.***

***http://  
www.jolietbicycleclub.com/home/membership/***

Looking for the JBC Ride Calendar? It is published monthly on the JBC website.

All JBC Ad Hoc Rides are announced through JBC Google Groups emails. Make sure you are signed up on JBC Google Groups to get all club announcements.

## Come join us for a meeting

The February Meeting will be at the Chili Cook off at Channahon Lanes on Feb 17th. All members are welcome.

JBC members generally meet at 7 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at Pizza4You

116 S. Larkin Ave. We meet in Feb, March, April, May, June, August, Sept, Oct, Nov. Meeting locations and dates may change. Please check the Ride Calendar for meeting location each month.

Most club meetings are held in Joliet at PizzaForU.

JBC Board meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Same location.

## A Shout-out to One of our Favorites

Who is the most passionate cyclist you know? I suspect a few JBCers are popping up in your mind. There's definitely no shortage of JBC cyclists who are the real deal. These are the folks who ride even when it's below 32 degrees with no sunshine. If the conditions are safe enough to cycle, they won't let the day pass without getting out on the bike. They have an inordinate and almost obsessive zeal for cycling.

But I'm talking about who is THE **most** passionate, the one who was born with a bike seat attached to his butt. The one who won't even let a cancer diagnosis and its unrelenting complications slow him down.

You've got it--, it's unequivocally, **Bill Lang**. I'm sure you've heard about this cycling legend. If you haven't, you're definitely a neophyte around here. Chances are you've enjoyed a ride with Bill as leader, or at the very least, heard about one.

How do you describe Bill Lang's cycling élan? If a land surveyor calculated all the territories, routes and boundaries that Bill has logged in his lifetime, the final value would make the Voyager-1 look close to home. If you're one of Bill's cycling buddies (and most of us are), then you'd think he himself was a specialized land surveyor by profession.



His nickname, mapman, is repeatedly well-earned. Bill can map the best cycling route to wherever you want to go. If you have a hankering to find a bike route to visit Santa's workshop in the North Pole, or the research lab that's studying how to turn root vegetables in to bike frames in the UK, Bill's your guy. He enthusiastically accepts the challenge to map a ride to the remotest of locations.

(Story continued on Page 6)

Photo caption: Bill Lang chats with JBC Chela Reyes and Mike Henry at his long awaited Welcome Home from Vietnam.

# 2018 4th of July Century

Steve Mitoraj is once again the Ride Leader for JBC's popular July 4<sup>th</sup> Metric Century. Here is an update of the early planning. This is a big event and even though the ride is 6 months away, we start planning now to make this a successful event.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual JBC 4<sup>th</sup> of July Metric Century is well into the planning stages, and all the pre-planning "stuff" is in the works

- The Start location will remain at Plainfield HS, with a single rest stop at Platteville.
- The ride brochures have been updated, are being printed, and will be sent off to Ride Illinois for their mass mailing. The mass mailing is sent to anyone who rode invitational rides or were bike club members in the Chicago area in 2017. Also included in the Ride Illinois mass mailing are local bike shops and bike clubs. Thanks to Renee T for compiling the list from the 1,000+ riders who participated in the 2017 JBC 4<sup>th</sup> Ride.
- Initial contact has been made with the vendors who provide services to support the ride. Most importantly, Culver's will be providing frozen custard again!

Once again, we will have a local bike shop set up repair stations at registration and at Platteville Rest Stop.

## JBC Volunteers are NEEDED:

We are in need of a captain for SAG, and would like to add "Food Captain" to the list. Anyone with any interest, but not sure of the responsibilities, feel free to call or e-mail and we can discuss. Steve Mitoraj at 630-417 7962. Email: jbc4thride@gmail.com

We normally need between 50 and 60 JBC volunteers to keep the ride moving smoothly - let's keep the JBC July 4<sup>th</sup> ride the best in the area by pitching in and helping out! We will have a volunteer sign up sheet at the Chili Cook off Bowl.

## Highlights / Changes for 2018

### Route Highlights / Changes:

The Century Route will be fully supported.

The routes include 32, 45, 54, 62, and 100 mile options.

The 62, and 100 mile routes will no longer run through Morris, we will only be using the Platteville Rest Stop.

The ride start and stop times will remain the same as in the past, and any Century Riders will still need to complete the ride by 4:00.

Porta Potties and hand wash stations numbers will be increased at both the High School and Platteville to help eliminate the long lines.

The frozen custard order from Culvers has also been increased for 2018.

Tee shirt order will also be increased for 2018

## Tee Shirt:

Same as 2017 - we are looking for design ideas from JBC members for the tee shirts. Please send any ideas for the tee shirt design to [jbc4thride@gmail.com](mailto:jbc4thride@gmail.com) for review. Send in photos of your fav tee short design, or something you saw on a web site, or just a description of an idea that we can work with. All ideas will be considered.

As in 2017, we will be posting the tee shirt designs on JBC GoogleGroups for the members to help with the selection of which tee shirt design to use. Expect to see an e-mail with the tee shirt designs coming in mid to late Feb. The design will be posted on our web site after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

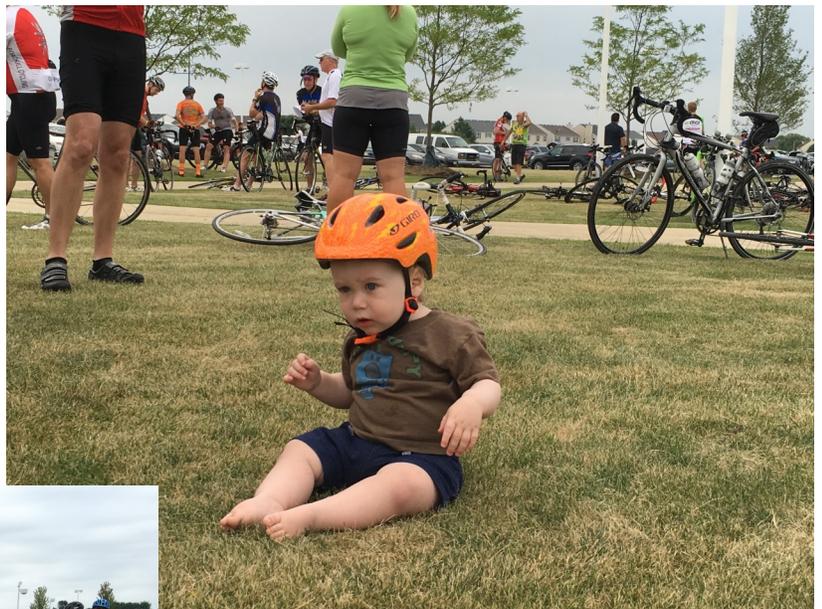
Will be using the same Tee Shirt supplier as in 2017 (Life Behind Bars), and the same poly material.

## On-Line Registration:

On-line pre-registration options for 2018 will be PAYPAL and ACTIVE.com.

Please contact Steve Mitoraj, July 4<sup>th</sup> Ride Leader with any questions or comments:

Steve Mitoraj 630-417 7962, or [jbc4thride@gmail.com](mailto:jbc4thride@gmail.com)



What's more, as Bill plans a ride, he eagerly advertises the ride inclusively, "Carol wants to ride to the summit of an unclimbable peak in the Himalaya. We'll go on Sunday, hope you can join. Might be a few busier roads, but I got a good way."

If there's ever been a wheeled cycle worthy of sporting a stage at the Bicycle Museum of America, Bill's ride is the top contender. Although not his first choice, Bill's present day bike is actually a trike. Some of the complications to which I've already referred, have precluded Bill from continuing to log miles on his Sramek bicycle. He logged 55, 437 miles on that titanium frame. Then, in the spring of 2012, Bill received a special gift from JBC.

"My first trike was a single speed senior type trike that a neighbor in Texas allowed me to borrow. I used that one during the years of 2011 and 2012. I slowed down tremendously about the first of January in 2010. I did some cycling but very limited between January of 2010 to December 2012. I had considered all cycling for practical purposes done for the rest of my life. Then that trike came along and changed everything."

Today, Bill rides a trike that's like a fully equipped base camp on wheels. Its battery powered montage of lights includes flashers and blinkers that would make a discotech jealous for its elaborate blinding glow. Two forward-facing lights, and several toward the ride's booty, attached to PVC piping resourcefully crafted together to be tall for visibility, ensure that even the poorly sighted will catch a glimpse of this rig.

Then there's the American flag projecting several feet higher than the lights. Patriotism is in this man's bones. Literally. Bill brought back the effects of Agent Orange exposure (the root cause of his cancer) after serving our country in Vietnam from July 20, 1969 to July 17, 1970.

As a radioman, the hefty and unwieldy equipment oft made his job a target for the enemy. Bill's willingness to talk about his experience is both interesting and educational. His brief stories are always threaded with humility as he explains, "The soldiers that were there before my time did all the hard work and serious fighting." Then he goes on to share anecdotes that reveal the true reality of having been a soldier in the Vietnam War (during all its years) and the terminal effects of chemical warfare that have been ravaging his body over the last 7 years.

Although his passion and tenacity for cycling make him unique, that's not what really makes Bill so cherished. He's absolutely gifted with a natural way of making all his friends feel important to him. Somehow, he manages to make everyone feel special.

It doesn't stop there though. Bill's adorable bride, Char (married 50 years!), is also positively rare. Each time I see her, she consistently shines her bejeweled smile whilst giving a heartfelt greeting. Despite not being a cyclist, Char knows most of Bill's riding buds. He ensures that she knows where to find him and the group at the end of every ride. One might think they are newlyweds from the way his consideration and inclusion of her is of the utmost importance to him.

Both Bill and Char's gentle kindness and generosity is infamous and beautiful. If you've witnessed the way in which he sparks things up for the reserved or underdog cyclists, then you know an inkling about what I mean.

“I notice somebody that’s riding alone and I’ll ride with ‘em, make their life a little more enjoyable. We do tend to pick-on ‘em too, in a fun way, in a good way, I hope. Trying to get ‘em more involved.”

The legend of Bill Lang isn’t only lauded in JBC, FOS, and EBC. He’s well-respected within and without multitudes of bike and triathlon clubs, as-well-as community and bicycling advocacy groups. It’s not possible to do justice to the mammoth impact this man has made upon cycling and the communities in which he’s resided.

The Midwest and Texas, where he and Char migrate each winter, have been the luckiest of beneficiaries, but this guy makes cycling friends everywhere he goes. I’ve even been asked (more than once) by fellow triathletes who’ve only heard whisperings about the expert mapman, “Who is that guy on the trike? You think he would help us with the route for our fundraising ride?” Bill Lang is an inspiration and friend to us all.

It’s a beautiful day for a bike ride with Bill Lang.

Written by Jane Botta

Photo caption: Bill Lang leads a ride to Community Veterans Memorial Park in nearby Munster, IN.



# 2018 JBC CHILI COOK OFF/BOWLING

## Saturday, Feb 17th

All JBC members are invited to join the fun on **SATURDAY, 02/17/2018** for the kick off of the 2018 JBC Social Season! The annual chili cook off / bowling night will again be held at the Channahon Lanes in Channahon, IL.

Plans are Set Up at 5:30pm

EAT 6:00-8:00pm

Bowling at 8:00pm.

JBC WILL COVER THE COST OF TWO GAMES AND Shoe Rental

Please **RSVP** if you plan to attend, what dish you will bring (CHILI, SIDE/SALAD, or DESSERT) There will be a prize for the #1 Chili & for each food category. This is always a fun filled night for JBC Family and Friends. Even if you don't bowl come and meet old friends or make new ones.

RSVP to Dominick and Jeanie Chellino

[dchellinojr@gmail.com](mailto:dchellinojr@gmail.com)

815-467-6476

Please Remember! Per our agreement with Channahon Lanes:

Don't bring in any drinks or beverages. All beverages can be purchased at Channahon Lanes.

THINK SPRING!



## Joliet Bicycle Club

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Email: [President@jolietbicycleclub.com](mailto:President@jolietbicycleclub.com)

*We are on the web!*  
*Jolietbicycleclub.com*

*JBC Metric Ride Plus held every  
July 4th. A ride for everyone.*



## JBC Purpose and Aims

*Joliet Bicycle Club aims to promote greater public awareness of the pleasures, benefits, and usefulness of bicycling.*

*We provide a service in the community in all areas involving bicycling.*

*JBC advocates the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists, and seeks to improve conditions for bicycling.*

*We provide opportunities for bicyclists of all ages to share their ideas and experiences in an organized manner.*

