

RBBC Newsletter- July 2018

In this Issue:

- Meeting Minutes July 2018
- RAGBRAI: Am I ready?
- RAGBRAI Report

Officer Report- we are seeking a new secretary, please contact the club email (rbbccclinton@gmail.com) if you are interested or would like more information.

Upcoming RBBC Ride Schedule:

- August 1st: Not quite a Full Moon Ride
- [October 13th: Lumber Jack and Jill Ride- Start working on that beard!](#)

Other rides:

- July 21st-26th: RAGBRAI- Are you ready?
- August 19th: Pie Ride- Bikes + Pie. Does it get any better?

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 16th at McKinley Street Tavern, 7PM.

July 19th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was canceled to allow for RAGBRAI preparations.
Ride Report

July (Not quite a) Full Moon Ride:

Given the number of people whom will be riding RAGBRAI we are shifting this month's full moon ride. Instead of riding on July 27th (when the full moon would be) we will be meeting to ride on August 1st. See you all at 7PM!

RAGBRAI: Am I Ready?

Here I sit, crossing Iowa on a bus. I love our state but the drive across it is lackluster (at least the bus has wi-fi, thank you 21st century!). At any rate I'm harboring that nagging feeling I have that I forgot something and am ill prepared. And while it's a marvel that I can get (relatively) high speed internet riding a bus at 60MPH, my ability to access the RAGBRAI forum and peruse packing lists and suggestions doesn't ease this feeling that I am not quite ready for this ride.

These lists that are itemized and alphabetized. These extensive, exhaustive lists that make me question if they are riding their bikes for a week or if they are moving into a new house but then again what do I know?

Our old friend Dave Spiter sent this along, not sure if he was feeding me newsletter fodder or helping out a first time RAGBRAI rider but I suspect a bit of both. I can't help but keep score on how prepared I am as I read through it:

We have all heard about the guy who went to RAGBRAI undertrained or unprepared and suffered for it. Here is a short list of things that first timers do not want to do if they don't want to be that guy.

—But how much did he suffer? I am an expert sufferer. Maybe I can take it.

Assume that it is going to be hot.

Most years, there are a day or two that are less than optimal. It rains, or it gets cold, or it is windy or it is everything in one go. It is good advice to take all of the cycling gear you own including arm and leg warmers, jacket, hat, raincoat, heavy socks. The sight of the poor guy shivering in the rain will move you to tears: make sure that you are not that guy.

—I am definitely covered for the hot and the wet. Cold might be an issue.

Stake your tent down properly.

Every so often, some hapless riders will come back from supper to discover that a sudden storm has blown their tent and all of their stuff into the lake because they were in a hurry and didn't bother to stake it down. You really don't want to be that guy.

—Stake tent down, easy victory. But if your tent is blown over AND thrown into a lake maybe you should look into balancing your karma. Or not camping near a lake.

Train for RAGBRAI not AT RAGBRAI

By the end of the week, you will see a lot of riders who are starting to look worse for the wear. They are sunburned, limping, walking like every step hurts. Look into these riders' eyes and you will see the 1,000 yard stare. These are the folks who felt that they could go into RAGBRAI with 400 miles in their legs and be OK. Of course you can do that, but wouldn't it be more fun if you were better prepared?

—At this point I estimate I am at about 500 miles. I guess that means I'll have a 750 yard stare?

Get your equipment checked out before you start.

You will see riders struggling with tents that they have just taken out of the box or a bike that should have had some love from a professional mechanic before they left. Check out all your stuff and make sure that it is working properly before you get on the bus! Also, carry basic tools and know how to use them. This includes an allen wrench that fits every allen bolt on your bike. Don't be the guy who gets sidelined by a loose bolt that nobody has the right sized wrench for.

—I have a solution for this, never let Chad pass me. I've packed spare tubes, assortment of wrenches and if that fails me I'll be sure to keep a couple extra beers handy for bribes.

Learn to ride in a pack before you go.

You will see some of the biggest packs ever on RAGBRAI. Talk to experienced riders at home before you leave. If you don't know how to survive in a big pack, learn all you can.

—Does 50 people for the Full Moon Ride constitute as a 'pack'?

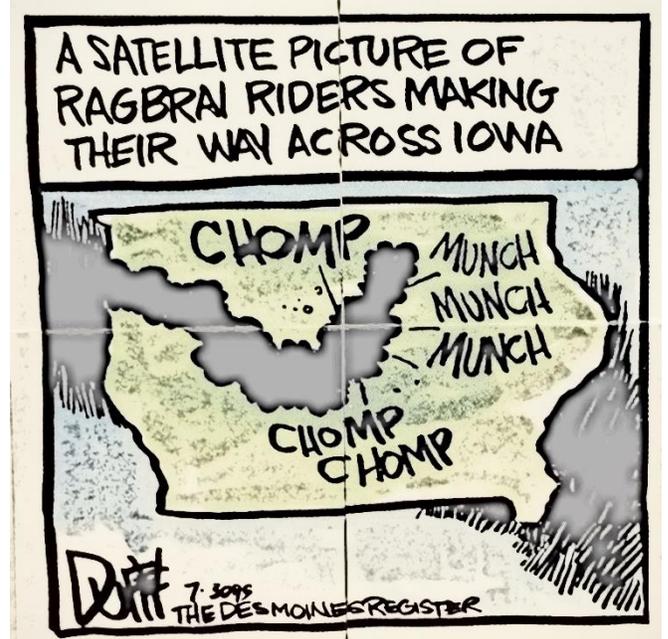
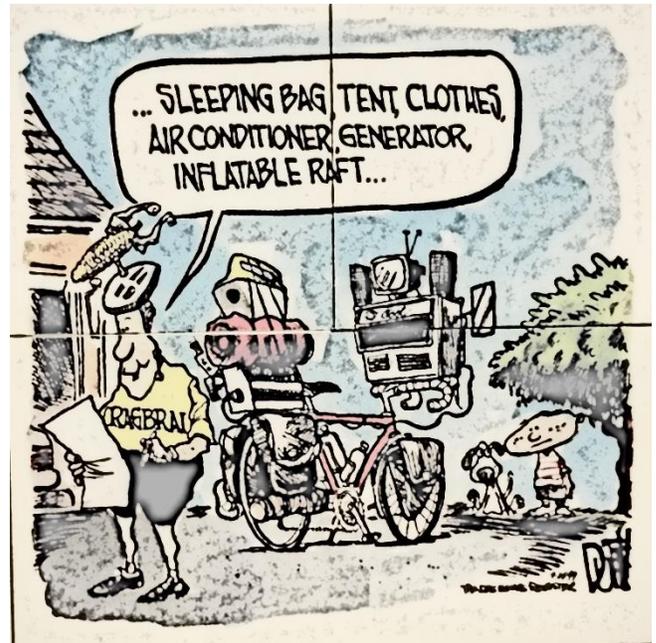
Bring lights and batteries.

You don't know that you will not be forced to ride in situations where visibility is reduced. Maybe you will discover that you can avoid the crowds by leaving really early or maybe you will have a mechanical problem and wind up riding in in the dark. Or maybe you will get caught in fog or a storm. If you don't have lights on your bike in one of those situations, you might wish that you did.

—You mean that light I left sitting on my kitchen counter? But I have the spare batteries.

RAGBRAI might be the biggest fun you ever have on two wheels. It can be even more fun if you go into it prepared.

My score was abysmal, if you were keeping score at home I hope yours was better. I procrastinated, made excuses, didn't ask enough questions and am depending too much on consistent moderate weather. So yes, I might get wet and cold. My bike may break down, I'll get confused amid masses of riders and by the end of the week I may be tired as a dog but I couldn't be more excited. As an Iowan I have heard about RAGBRAI my entire life, I've boasted about being from the state where RAGBRAI is held every year and every year I lament that I didn't ride. I have had friends and family ride, talked with strangers who have ridden and yet I STILL waited this long to do it. It's a guarantee that I forgot something, I'll definitely get at least a mild sunburn, but it'll be while ridding RAGBRAI. I've ridden in the rain, snow, hail and wind. In the mountains, on the coasts but I have never ridden across this state. The views may be a bit unremarkable the experience and the friends will make it memorable so what's it matter if I forgot something? When I tell the story that part won't even get a second thought.



Comics done by Iowa Cartoonist Brian Duffy formally with The Des Moines Register. Check out more of his work at: www.brianduffcartoons.com

RBBC RAGBRAI Report July 17, 2018

It is almost time for RAGBRAI XLVI. RBBC will start RAGBRAI on Friday, July 20. We will start by loading bikes at St. Ambrose University at the Cosgrove Parking lot at the northwest corner of Ripley and Locust. We will check people in between 3:00 P. M. and dark. People should sign up for long-term parking. Long term parking assigned to RBBC will be near the bike loading site. Go to The Davenport link on the RAGBRAI.com website. If you plan to camp in Davenport, we will camp at Centennial Park near the ballpark on the riverfront. There will be shuttles between the campgrounds and the loading site. We will resume loading bikes on Saturday, July 21, at dawn. Buses will arrive at the loading sit around 6:00 A. M. Load your gear and your stuff on the bus. The buses leave for Onawa at 6:30 A. M. We should arrive in Onawa by mid-afternoon. There will be a break for lunch/breakfast on the way. We leave Onawa on Sunday morning headed toward Denison, and ultimately Davenport. The Argo truck will be transporting our gear every day. I have sent addresses for each campsite to the people who are using our charter. Also, there will be signs to guide us to the campsite each day.

Here are some statistics for our trip this year:

	Total signed up	Taking the bus	Camping and having bags transported
Members	37	25	25
Non-members	69	51	49
Total	106	76	73

We have two buses reserved, and I am sure we will have enough to pay for them. Jon Fah has visited each of the pass-through towns and reserved campsites. I have talked to the people from Davenport, and it looks like we will be loading buses at St. Ambrose as we have in the past. We will be parking near St. Ambrose, and Camping is in Centennial Park on the riverfront near the Ball Park. I have wristbands, etc. I will distribute them when we load buses on July 21 or when we arrive in Onawa, if you are camping but not taking the bus. For those not taking the bus, or camping we need to plan to get your wrist band to you. I have already given six wristbands out.

I have logged a few more miles. I am at 474, my goal. We had a great ride on Sunday (VanderEides, Mary and Mike and I) to Morrison and Rockwood State Park. They all had ice cream at the café. I had iced tea. Fortunately, we did not get caught in the rain.

John Bonte, RBBC RAGBRAI Coordinator