



CALOOSA CHRONICLES
Published bi-monthly
Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club
of Southwest Florida
Since 1988
WWW.CALOOSARIDERS.COM

JUL-AUG

2009

**HELP US GROW
ASK
A FRIEND TO JOIN**

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**MOSTLY MONTHLY
MEETINGS
ARE ON VACATION FOR
JULY AND AUGUST**

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009**

Wanderings in Germany

Mike Swanson

Bill Garrison and I left Fort Myers at 4:45 PM Tue and arrived in Düsseldorf, Germany around 8:00 AM on Wednesday October 16, 2007. Many of you knew CRBC member Dieter Decker who died in a bicycling accident in May 2007. Bill had planned on going to Germany in May to ride with Dieter, but postponed the trip after the accident. I decided to join Bill on his trip to Germany.

Dieter's sons Frank and Justin picked us up at the airport and brought us to Frank's apartment where we stored our bicycle boxes while we toured. We visited Dieter's house, which had been in the family for three generations and toured Cologne (Köln).

That night the four of us went to Fuhr Kölsch, a restaurant in an old brewery. In most restaurants in Germany, you find your own table. It was crowded and we found a table several floors underground by the kitchen. Kölsch is a style of beer found only in the Cologne area. Of course we sampled the Kölsch.

Frank dropped us off at our hotel. The room was on the third floor with no elevators. That was the first sign we were not staying at the Hilton. Our bikes were stored in a locked garage. It is common for hotels to have a place to store your bicycle. The included breakfast was cold cuts, cheese bread, pastries and fresh fruit.

THURSDAY October 18, 2007 Cologne to Koblenz 63 miles

It is just the two of us. We are not on an organized tour and have no advance hotel reservations except the first night. We load our bikes and leave at 0900. It is about 3 miles to the Rhine River which we will be following for two days. We have a book, *Cycling the Rhine Route*, purchased before we left. Our plan is to ride from Cologne to Munich and take the train back.

(Continued on page 6)

Ride Schedule *HELMETS REQUIRED FOR ALL RIDES !!!!*

Saturday Rides: Buckingham Community Park on Buckingham Road East of SR 82 Start 8:00 a.m.

JUL AUG 2009

JUL 4	Wheeler	Bill Garrison 239-275-7615
JUL 11	Old Milwaukee	Ron Cox 239-334-7580
JUL 18	Alva Special	JoAnne V. 239-936-1058
JUL 25	I Like Ike	Mike Swanson 239-896-6938
AUG 1	Greenbrier	Jeff Brim 239-560-2746
AUG 8	Airport Special	Peter Ahlgren 239-481-5940
AUG 15	Wheeler	Bill Garrison 239-275-7615
AUG 22	Old Milwaukee	Ron Cox 239-334-7580
AUG 29	Alva Special	JoAnne V. 239-936-1058
SEP 5	I Like Ike	Mike Swanson 239-896-6938

Tuesday & Thursday Rides

Cay West Parking Lot - Cape Coral Parkway west of Chiquita. 8:00 AM 30 miles
The group rides to Coral Oaks Golf course for a break and then returns. Some of the riders maintain a conversational pace (12 - 15 mph) while others ride much faster.

Sunday Rides

Bell Tower - Daniels and US 41
Meet at 7:30 AM Pace 20 mph for 30 to 60 miles. Not for beginners.

Pelican/Cape Coral: Meet at 8:00 AM at Pelican Park on Pelican Blvd, north of Cape Coral Parkway. Pace 12 to 20 mph for 26 to 35 miles.

Check the Yahoo Group for changes to the ride schedule. Maps can be found on the website www.caloosariders.com
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BEGINNERS ROAD RIDE July 4

On the first Saturday of each month we have a beginners ride at Buckingham Community Park. This is be a 12 mph ride of about 15 miles. No one will be dropped. The ride will start at 8:00 AM (Arrive early) Helmets are required. No headphones per state law. Persons under 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

Norma will be leading this month's ride
Information 502-419-6350
riderinfo@caloosariders.com

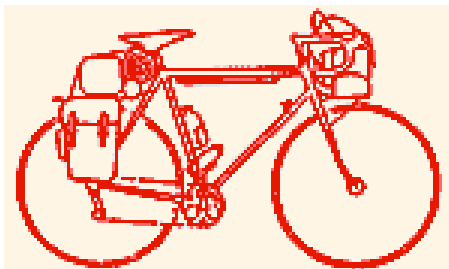
Breakfast After Rides

Tuesday/Thursday
Annie's
814 SW 47th St, Cape Coral

Saturday
Frankie's
3701 Fowler St, Fort Myers

MORE RIDES ON THE FBA TOURING CALENDAR <http://www.floridabicycle.org/fbtc>

JUL 12	20th Annual Frank Stark Bicycle Ride, Boca Raton	30 and 62 mile routes \$40 day of ride includes lunch www.BocaRatonBicycleClub.com 561-391-6109
July 18	Citrus County Cycling Classic Inverness	14,34 and 62 mile routes www.citruscycling.org 352-341-3910
July 24-26	Dade City Bike Fest	http://www.chaingangevents.com/ 813-245-0706



PROPOSED

WEEKEND RIDES 2009—2010

KEY WEST ADVENTURE No. 6

November 15---19, 2009

We will take the Key West Express to Key West. Camp at Boyd's camp ground, Long Key, John Pennekamp, And Long Key before returning to Boyd's for a nice warm shower. We will catch the Key West Express back to Fort Myers. The ride is approximately 225 miles. There will be a sag to carry your equipment. Cost will be approximately \$215 plus food at your expense. We must have a minimum of 15 people on the boat.

CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND RIDE No. 4

January 2---3, 2010

We will ride from Immokalee to Chokoloskee Island along lightly traveled SR #29 on the west edge of the Everglades. Camp in tents or rent a cabin, The ride is approximately 48 miles each way. There will be a sag to carry your equipment. Cost approximately \$37 plus food at you expense.

HIGHLANDS FLING No. 3

February 6---7, 2010

We will ride from Arcadia to Highlands Hammock State Park, most of the time on lightly traveled back roads. The ride is approximately 42 miles each way. There will be a sag to carry your equipment. Cost approximately \$55 per person, including cook out for dinner and breakfast.

All of these rides are available to club members only.

I have reserved 20 tent sites at each campground. Early sign up helps in the planning.

More information E-mail or call.

Ron Cox

rcox1@comcast.net

239-334 7580

Thanks, Ron

These rides fill up early — get your reservation in ASAP

Seaside, Oregon to Bar Harbor, Maine 2009

CRBC members, Tom Zych and Jim Baxter, left Seaside, Oregon on 6/21 following the Lewis and Clark trail to Missoula and the Northern Tier to Bar Harbor. They expect to finish sometime around Labor Day. Their progress can be followed at:

www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/ctoc2009

As of June 28 they had followed the Columbia River and were in Walla Walla, Washington.

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2009 Senior Games

The Florida Senior Games State Championships will be held in Lee County again in 2009. The cycling events will be held in Cape Coral on December 8 and 10, 2009. To enter the state games you have to qualify at a local game and be at least 50 years old (how can they call that senior?) Here are some CRBC members that have already qualified for the state games:

- Mike Bricker
- Gerald Lamb
- Norma Colver
- David Colver
- Rich Wilson
- Bob Hale
- Dutch van der Kuyp
- Jim Reading
- Michael Grussemeier
- Mike Swanson

There is still time to qualify. Jacksonville will hold an event in October. November brings games in Gainesville, Martin County and Sanford.

Not all local games provide a cycling event. Those that do generally have a 5k and 10k time trial. The state games also include a 20k and 40k road race.

More details are available at www.flasports.com

CRBC has been providing volunteers for the cycling events at the state senior games. Volunteer opportunity details will follow in the Nov-Dec issue.

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Caloosa Riders Jerseys



Caloosa Riders Jerseys have arrived and are available in an assortment of sizes. You can see a picture of the jerseys and shorts on the website. Check on size availability with Bob. Not all sizes are available.

Jerseys	REDUCED to \$41 thanks to a contribution from Fort Myers Schwinn
Shorts	\$50
Shipping	CHECK WITH BOB

Members have priority in ordering. Prices for non-members are \$10 higher per item.





JERSEY ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone _____

E-Mail _____

SIZING CHART

ITEM DESCRIPTION	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL	XXXXL
MEN'S Short Sleeve Jersey (chest)	NA	39-40	41-42	43-44	45-46	47-48
MEN'S Shorts (waist)	NA	33-34	35-36	38-40	39-40	NA
WOMEN'S Short Sleeve Jersey (chest)	35.5-37	37.5-40	40.5-42.5	NA	NA	NA

Sizes run small consider a size or two larger than your normal jersey size

ORDER

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	INDICATE SIZE (CIRCLE)	QUANTITY ORDERED	EXTENDED PRICE
MEN'S Short Sleeve Jersey	\$41.00	Men's: L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL		
MEN'S Shorts	\$50.00	Men's: L XL XXL XXXL		
WOMEN'S Short Sleeve Jersey	\$41.00	Women's M L XL		
SHIPPING	CHECK WITH BOB	If you want items mailed		
NON-MEMBERS	\$10.00	\$10 per item for non-members		
		TOTAL		

CALL OR EMAIL BEFORE ORDERING TO CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY OF SIZES

Please make out check to: CALOOSA RIDERS
Please mail check and order form to:

Robert Hale
1429 SE 13TH ST
Cape Coral FL 33990
239-699-4447
email: bhbikers@gmail.com

THE ABOVE JERSEY PRICES ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FROM FORT MYERS SCHWINN



Mike along the Rhine

We head south along the Rhine River on a nice paved bike path. After an hour or so, we enter a nature preserve and the path starts to narrow eventually turning to dirt. We decide we have missed a turn and backtrack. This will be the first of many “missed turns.” We were not lost, just taking the scenic route. There are many bike routes and paths so it is easy to miss a turn and still be on a bike route, but maybe not the intended one.



Bill on the passenger ferry

We made a few more scenic detours when we come upon a ferry that crossed a small river. The ferry is a passenger/bicycle only ferry. The ferry operator (no English) was in a small shack. We get his attention and he motions for us to load our bikes onto the ferry. The ferry is tethered to a cable that runs perpendicular to the river. It is powered by the current when the operator

steers the bow into the river current with the tiller.

We are heading for Bonn, the old capital of West Germany. Trying to assure ourselves that we are on the right path, we ask a local for directions to Bonn. Unfortunately our pronunciation of Bonn sounds like bahn (German for train) or auto bahn. We finally get someone to understand and get the correct directions. We have lunch in Bonn at a restaurant on the Rhine where we can watch the barge and boat traffic. The route is well marked from here to Koblenz where we wait out a rain shower under a bridge.

In Andernach I hit a wet rail track and get up close and personal with the pavement. A broken pannier connection, torn jacket and scrapes on the brake lever were the only damage to the equipment. I had a little road rash and a badly bruised ego. I lashed the pannier on with a zip tie and we were on our way again.

We arrive in Koblenz and find a restaurant with rooms to rent above. This is our second night on the third floor with no elevator and this time the bathroom was down the hall. We have dinner in the restaurant. The owner, Franz, speaks a little English. His nephew has played basketball in the states and he has visited. After dinner, Franz brought us a peach-plum brandy mix to try. It was his own concoction and very good. We inquire if breakfast is included as it frequently is, Franz says that it is not included, but he could make breakfast for 5 euros each. We decide to find a bakery in the morning. After dinner, we walked across a bridge on the Mosel River to old town.

FRIDAY October 19, 2007 Koblenz to Mainz 65 miles

Franz thought that we were committing to breakfast when we enquired the night before. As we were getting ready to leave, he told us breakfast was ready. He was so disappointed when we told him we were not going to have breakfast that we stayed. He said he had gotten his wife up early and he had gone out to the bakery for fresh bread. Breakfast was very good. Ham, liverworst, bread, jam, scrambled eggs, various

cheeses and coffee.

We head out and visit Franz Fährad bicycle shop looking for parts to repair my panniers – no luck. We head to a park at the confluence of the Mosel and Rhine rivers and then further south along the Rhine. The day's route took us on paths with cobbles, pavers, dirt and the street. We saw swans in the river and many castles. For some reason, the book we have tells us to take a ferry across the Rhine where we have lunch at a grocery store. We were riding mostly on a highway with a fairly narrow shoulder. There was a better bike path on the other side. We have coffee at Saint Gorh and then take another ferry back across the Rhine.

Bills wheel has started to squeak loudly – thought it might be a bearing. As we arrived in Mainz, we find the largest bicycle shop either of us has ever seen. It is part of a chain of shops called Franz Fährad. They lube and adjust the hub for free. No parts available for my panniers. It has been a very scenic day with castles, swans and a pheasant.

It was getting dark as we arrived in downtown Mainz. The first hotel we try closed at 6:00 and it is now 6:30. We find the Ibis Hotel for €59 including our own bathroom. It even has an elevator which is a real bonus for the old knees after two 60 plus mile days. Dinner is at The Alex, a bar and restaurant filled mostly with young people. We both had a baked potato with grilled chicken chunks and sour cream on it.

SATURDAY October 20, 2007 Mainz to Frankfurt 32 miles

We have breakfast at a bakery. I have a sandwich with meat, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce and sliced hard boiled egg. As we are leaving the bakery, I ask a young boy on a bicycle if he knew how to get to the Mainz River. His English was very limited, but he motioned for us to follow him. He took us to a bridge that crossed the Rhine and put us on the south side of the Mainz River. Unfortunately we really wanted to be on the North side. There is frost on the fields, but we are dressed for the cold weather.

For half the day we were along the river. We passed through a very large Opel automobile manufacturing plant in Russelheim. We got lost several times before reaching Frankfurt. We cross over the Mainz River into Frankfurt. As we are looking for a hotel, it is Bill's turn

to find railroad tracks and fall. Bill's bike is OK, but his leg has a gash on it.

We find a downtown hotel. After hauling all of our gear to the room they assigned us, we find it has one double bed. This is not going to work. Back to the registration desk, where they upgrade us to a much larger room with three twin beds. We settle in and then set out to see some of the city on foot. We went to the train station where they were filming an Opel commercial. It appeared to be a concept car that had a couple of Segways that stored in the back. We had lunch and checked out the train cars that were designated to carry bicycles. There was a heavy presence of police in riot gear at the train station. As we left they were checking all of the punk rocker types that were coming into the station – taking them aside and talking to them. Lots of Polezi outside, but we could not figure out what was going on.

Back to the hotel, then dinner around the corner at Bassel Eck. At the peak, the proprietor was waiting on about 40 people very efficiently (There were three large tables of Asians and several tables speaking American English). They had an extensive menu in several languages.

SUNDAY October 21, 2007 Frankfurt to Aschaffenburg 40 miles

It was 46 degrees when we left our hotel for the train station where we had breakfast. We rode through light traffic in downtown as we look for a cathedral spire we had seen the previous day. After a few detours, we find the cathedral, which was impressive, but they were working on the lower part and had it covered. We found an interesting square with lots of half-timbered buildings. We meet a German bicycling tourist who also left from Cologne. He was pulling a trailer and tenting. He was riding a Dutch built bike with a couple of unusual features. It had a Cateye computer that was built into the stem and hydraulic rim brakes. Things went fairly smooth until it started to rain. Plenty of bird life today.

We had lunch at a pizza place. The lady had been married to an American for ten years and spoke good English.

After a while, we get lost again. It is easy to do

(Continued on page 8)

when going through a town as there are multiple bike routes marked. We wind up riding on a busy road with very little shoulder into the town of Aschaffenburg. As we crossed the bridge we could see a large castle. We get a room at the Hotel Wilder Mann and start exploring on foot. We walk to the castle. Next to the castle there is a new car show. Quite a contrast.

We then walked through the old town shopping area. Most of the stores were open even though it is Sunday. We found a bookstore with bicycle route maps and we buy a couple of them to finish our trip.

MONDAY October 22, 2007 Aschaffenburg to Gamburg 58 miles

The room included breakfast buffet with rolls, cheese, meat, eggs, fruit salad, cereal, bacon, yogurt, and juice. Very fancy presentation and a great start for the day.

Leaving Aschaffenburg about 0900 we followed the Main River. A couple of deer cross our path and lots of birds today including swans, woodpeckers, ducks, and sparrows. At Wertheim we start up the Tauber River. We stop in Gamburg, a very small village. There is a pension here for 48 euros including breakfast. The elderly lady did not speak much English and after showing us the room, told us to go to a garage around the corner to leave our bikes. Then she wanted us to carry our bags around to the front. We complained, and she walked away.

We rode the bikes back around to the front to unload the bags. When we went back to the garage, the door was locked. She has already given us the room key, but we have not paid yet. I go in looking for her, but she is nowhere to be found. Bill is outside waiting when a younger lady asks if she can help him, she is the boss. The old lady is her mother in law. She said we could leave the bikes in the hallway. She does not speak great English, but says we can pay in the morning at breakfast. They do not even have our name or anything you would expect for registration.

Most of the town is closed on Mondays, but there is one restaurant open. We go up there and it is in an old root cellar. You go down a couple of steps and the ceiling is arched and made of stone. The floor is brick. There are two tables with fancy table clothes.

It did not even look like you should eat on them. There is also a table with easy chairs around it. Shortly the frau comes down the stairs and tells us to have a seat. The menus are 5 or 6 pages and laminated. It told of the family history in addition to the offerings. There had been a special on the board outside, I ask about it. In her limited English, she struggles for words and says it is beefsteak with zucchini, tomatoes and potatoes. We both say we will take it. It turns out to be meatloaf !! We ordered a glass of local red wine the glasses are 250ml --there is only 750 ml in a bottle. The only other person to come in while we were there was a guy who sat in one of the easy chairs and had a couple of beers.

TUESDAY October 23, 2007 Gamburg to Rothenburg 52 miles

We did not wake up until 0900 this morning. We had closed the shutters because the curtains were sheer. The shutters are like our storm shutters and many people have them on their windows.

We got underway about 1000. Cold this AM but we do not know the temp. The route is a little hilly today with head winds part of the time.

I crashed again today. Stupid mistake on my part. I was trying to open a snack bar and lost control. I hit a log and went over it. No injuries to me, but it broke the mount for my handlebar bag. It is now a trunk bag held on with bungee cords.

Followed the Tauber through farming country. Typically, the farm house is in town and the tractors go out to the fields on the same path we are riding on. Had to pull over for a couple of them to pass.

We passed through many small villages today and a few larger towns. We finally arrived at Rothenburg and settled into a hotel around 1800. We are inside the walled city and staying in a hotel built in 1786.



**Continued in the
SEP-OCT Issue**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Benefits of membership:

- ◆ Newsletter ◆ Discounts ◆ Club Meetings ◆ Rides ◆ Free Classifieds ◆ Website ◆

Membership Applications are available:

On our web site www.caloosariders.com

At many local bike shops

Single Membership	\$15
Family Membership	\$20

Questions? **Membership Coordinator:**
 Tracy Wells
 239-282-2291

CONTACTS

President
 Robert Hale
 239-699-4447
 bhbikers@gmail.com

Vice President
 Dutch van der Kuyp
 Bikes4u2c@gmail.com

Secretary
 Allen Byerly
 239-437-1608

Treasurer
 Dale Sterz
 239-471-2632
 Dsterz@hotmail.com

Ride Coordinator
 JoAnne VanNetta
 239-936-1058

Membership
 Tracy Wells
 239-282-2291
 Wellsonwheels@comcast.net

Editor
 Mike Swanson
 239-772-2041
 Newsletter@caloosariders.com

Webmaster
 Jeff Brim
 jeffbrim@yahoo.com

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Newsletter@caloosariders.com

WANTED NEWSLETTER EDITOR

***Would you like to be the next newsletter editor?
 Contact Mike Newsletter@caloosariders.com***

Caloosa Riders YahooGroup

We have a group on Yahoo that will replace the message board on the website. To subscribe send a blank email to:
caloosariders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
 You will receive an email with instructions on joining.

DID YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL?

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ADVANTAGES:

- You receive it sooner
- Save the club printing and mailing expenses
- If you read it on your computer you save space in your recycle bin.

Contact Tracy Wells
Wellsonwheels@comcast.net
 to convert your mailed subscription to email.



Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club
PO BOX 870
Fort Myers FL 33902

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jason Gunter
Tyrone McLean
Jon Van Emst
Dena Geraghty

BEGINNERS ROAD RIDE
JULY 4
BUCKINGHAM PARK
DETAILS PAGE 2

CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE AT THESE FINE STORES

These businesses offer members a **10%** discount on non-sale items. Bicycles Excluded. Present your membership Card.

A.J. Barnes Bicycle Emporium

15248 S. Tamiami Trail,
Fort Myers
239-437-0373

**The BikeRoute
(Discount only on selected items)**

8595 College Parkway
Fort Myers
239-481-3376

Ft. Myers Schwinn

3630 Cleveland
Fort Myers
239-939-2899

Wooley's Bikeland

4391 Colonial Blvd
Fort Myers
239-939-0511

Naples Cyclery

813 Vanderbilt Beach Rd. Naples
239-566-0600

Cape Coral Bicycles

8 Del Prado Blvd S., CC
239-242-2453

Engel's Bicycles

27310 Old 41 Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
239-498-9913

Billy's Bike Shop

1509 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel
239-472-3620

Acme Bicycle Shop

615 Cross St (US 41 S), P.Gorda
941-639-3029

Paradise Bicycles

1712 Del Prado Blvd S, CC
239-772-2453

Trek Bicycle Store of Estero

8001 Plaza Del Lago Ste 101,
Estero
239-390-9909

Trek Bicycle Store of Naples

9051 Tamiami Trl
Naples
239-591-8735

Bicycle Center

3795 Tamiami Trail So
Port Charlotte
941-627-6600