

# May-Jun 2005

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society (



### **OFFICERS:**

President

Mark Erzen-(734)453-3481 merzen@comcast.net

Vice President

Tom Powell - (734) 994-6340 Secretary

Terry Treppa-(734) 729-2240 ttreppa@mindspring.com

Treasurer

Dave Patria - (734) 665-3961

**COMMITTEES:** Membership

Beth Caldwell- (734) 663-5060 Chris Free-(248) 669 5434 cfree@illinoisalumni.org

Mileage

Vickie Smith - (734) 996-9461 Vickie.Smith@comcast.net

Ride Calendar

Ken Bawcom - (734) 973-9225 kibawc@umich.edu

Maps

Frank Lamitola - (734) 996-9461 frankolam@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor Lynda Collins-(734)994-7929

LyndaC@provide.net

Special Events Dan Harrison - (734) 971-3610 danharrison@att.net

OHR chair

**Publicity** 

Jim VanVlerah - (734) 455-9496 Equipment

Tom Glowacki - (734) 426-4616 Tomg@AVLNA.com

Safety

Carole Hann(734)483-0448 carolehann@comcast.net Paul Alman(734) 663-2540 Kathleen Donahoe(734) 996-4985 James Partridge(734) 997-7117 Bud Preston(248) 380-0691

Web Guy

Scott Williams(734)-662-6884 webguy@aabts.org

**BOARD:** 

Steu White(734) 996-2974 Ada Johnson(248) 474-1254 Kathleen Donhoe(734) 996-2985 Chris Marble (734) 426-8694 Barb Underwood (734) 665-3961

**AABTS Web site** http://www.aabts.org

734-913-9851

# THE AMAZING 100,000 MILE MAN By Lynda Collins



Joe's son Jim Datsko, Joe Datsko, Mrs. Doris Datsko their daughter Paula Barker and granddaughter Claire Barker

On March 27th at the Spring Potluck, Joe Datsko became the first recipient of a 100,000 mileage patch. His wife Doris and two of his five children, Jim and Paula, and a grandchild Claire, were there to witness him receiving this honor for his remarkable achievement. Joe joined the club in 1980 and has completed approximately 7,000 to 6,000 miles a year riding five days a week and sometimes morning and evening rides. And, most impressive of all, Joe Datsko, who started riding around age fifty, is eighty-four years old and still riding.

Joe's son Robert introduced the family to cycling in the late 60's when Rob was in high school. Robert and Lou Chaney's daughter joined a cycling club where they did laps in Pioneer High School's basement in the winter. Soon Joe was driving Robert to races around the area, which were few and far between in Michigan at the time. Next the entire family became cyclists. Annually Joe, Doris, and their five children would participate in TOSRV in Ohio. Joe kept up with his two sons and daughter Deanna. Quite an accomplishment since Deanna tried out for the USCF and Robert was an alternate on the Olympic team in 1972. His son Jim was one of the founding members of AABTS. After all that practice, Joe's first club ride was a double metric century.

While raising a family and bicycling, Joe taught Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan for forty-seven years. His textbook on Metallurgy is still considered the standard and his extensive research provided him with international recognition. Because of his reputation, foreign students invited him to teach or lecture summers in their home countries. Thus, he and Doris traveled to Japan, Brazil, Venezuela, and Mexico as honored guests of universities. Doris made sure she learned the language prior to the visit. Their home displays some of the treasures from these journeys.

Once Joe retired he was free to become a full time cyclist. In his seventies or middle age as he refers to it, he began bicycle tours of the United States. The first trip of twelve weeks began with a wheel in the Pacific Ocean at Bellingham. Washington and ended in Portland, Maine with a wheel in the Atlantic Ocean covering 5200 miles. Next he traveled from Portland, Maine to Orlando, Florida which was 1680 miles in

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### Continued from page 1

three weeks. Then in 1994, he left Oceanside, California and arrived on St. Simon Island, Georgia five weeks and 2550 miles later. The next year he left Vancouver, British Columbia and rode to Tijuana, Mexico for 1918 miles in four weeks. Finally, in 1997 he rode the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon in five weeks and 2280 miles. Amazingly on all of these trips he had only two flat tires

Besides his cross country trips, Joe has also bicycled in Nova Scotia, Virginia and Maryland with his daughter, with Wandering Wheels in Florida and several PALM rides with two of his seven grandchildren.

Bicycling has been an activity he enjoyed and stuck with for several reasons. He discovered rural America from a bike rather than a car and found the warmth of small towns, which would set up breakfasts or lunches for the bike group amazing. He's met many interesting people. On one transcontinental trip, he biked with a woman who was losing her sight, and a young man who was completing his recently deceased father's dream on his father's antique bike. Finally, he's maintained a healthy, fit body and reasonable weight. Biking in the rain, crisscrossing the Continental Divide five times, in 100 degree temperatures in North Dakota, through New York City with a police escort, along treacherous mountain paths without guard rails, through it all, he's only used four bikes.... two Raleighs and two Bianchis.

He's seen many changes in bicycling through the years with improvements in equipment, clothing, and gear. However, he would still like to see a 15" to 18" bike lane on more roads, bicycle friendly driver's license plates, and more "Share the Road" signs.

Next time you're on a ride, more than likely Joe will be there and ahead of you so catch up to him and offer your congratulations to this amazing 100,000 man.

Also during the month of May look for Joe as he is interviewed on Senior Living, a program on the AnnArbor community access channel.

# Classified

Classified Section Policy:
Please send your ads to the newsletter editors.
We will publish your ad for three issues unless
notified to delete or extend.

# Deadline

for Next Newsletter **Thursday June 16** 

# Mint Condition Bikes for Sale

Co-Motion Tandem Roadster, purple, mint condition, only ridden twice

2 Specialized Allez 18 speed road bikes

Specialized Road Hopper 18 speed mountain bike

Specialized Stump Jumper 18 speed mountain bike

Moving out of town must sell make offer

Call Jim 734-358-365

# Club Hotline: (734) 913-9851 WWW.AABTS.ORG

The Hotline has information about current rides, corrections to the Ride Calendar, dates of potlucks and the like. If you have questions about rides, the Hotline is a good place to look for answers.



# Want Ad

HELP WANTED **D&D BICYCLES**SALES, MECHANICS,
and MANAGER POSITIONS
810- 227- 5070





### **OHR 2005**

### ONE HELLUVA RIDE 2005

# CHELSEA, MICHIGAN

The best ride in Michigan, HELL, The best ride in the country.

JULY 9, 2005

Plans are coming along fast and furious for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual OHR, Saturday, July 9. The jerseys are designed; the fairgrounds are reserved, perfect weather has been ordered.

We need to get volunteers in place for the ride to be as successful as it was last year.

Last year ridership was up to around 1700. We can't have all those paying customers waiting in line for lunch or for a banana at the rest stops. The riders really enjoy seeing a smiling face and a supportive thumbs up at that rest stop, especially those new riders who are working hard at that 50-60 mile route.

Please contact the volunteer Triumvirate (otherwise known as the three Graces) to sign up for a really good spot. Serving up a great lunch at Portage Lake is a favorite job. Perhaps you would enjoy riding during the morning and cleaning up in the afternoon. You might work at registration Friday evening or Saturday morning and still have time to ride Saturday afternoon. All the cars are parked by 10:00 a.m. You can park cars and still enjoy a marvelous ride out to Portage Lake for lunch and entertainment. Three rest stops need to be staffed during the ride. Sign up for a 2-4 hour shift and still have time to ride. And don't forget about the opportunity to help serve Ken Bawcom's chilled watermelon, cut to his specifications.

It takes well over 200 volunteers to organize a successful one-day ride. It's a great way for you new members to get to know each other and see what a fantastic ride an A-ONE grade organization can put on.

There is a fabulous pizza and beer party after the ride on Saturday evening for all of the volunteers.

### CALL NOW:

Ann Hunt: 734-761-1147 (aehunt@comcast.net)

Vickie Smith: 734-996-9461 (Vickie.smith@comcast.net)

Shirley Ceely: 734-662-8266 (sailnickelby@bignet.net)

Thanks! Kathleen Donahoe

## Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition

Meets on the first Thursday of every month, 7:00 p.m., Ecology Center, 117 North Division (just north of Huron) in Ann Arbor. Visit the WBWC web page at www.wbwc.org for news and updates about this organization dedicated to increasing the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking opportunities in Washtenaw County through advocacy and education.



# May-Jun 05

# The Last Taco Ride

# By Ken Bawcom

No one seems to know when the Taco Ride started. I think it had to be before 1981, probably in the late 70's. It came about because we had a Club ride to Tecumseh, led by Les Bohm, who founded Eclipse. On the return route, he and Reuben Chapman stopped at the Lopez fruit stand in Ridgeway. Senora Lopez greeted them, and asked where they were riding. Les explained that they ate in Tecumseh. She said she could fix food for the riders. Les said that there might be a lot! She said that was no problem, as she was used to cooking for family get-togethers, and they had a rather big family. Is it 18 kids? I don't remember exactly. They do have a big family.

So an AABTS tradition was born. The ride became very popular. I did it long before I joined the Club. One year, when the ride info didn't make it to the Observer, I missed it, and decided I'd better join the Club. Eventually, I took over organizing the ride. Eighty or ninety riders was common. I believe that we once had 133, amazing for a Club ride, even then. It also ran twice a year. When I started riding it, the cost was \$3.

The route actually has some nice hills on it, like Schneider Road, and the Moon Road roller coaster on the way back. But, the main attraction was Senora Lopez's great Mexican home cooking, and the warm hospitality of the whole family. Tacos, excellent tamales, chicken mole (pronounced mo-lay), guacamole, a great home-made hot salsa, and an array of other dishes, all finished off with watermelon. Enough to challenge the hungriest cyclist. It was quite a social get together. Club members met on this ride and later married!

Sometime before the 1989 ride, as far back as my calendar collection goes, Minerva Lopez died. The AABTS donated some money towards her grave stone. One would think that the ride would have ended, but no! The Lopez family wanted to continue the tradition. The ride was renamed The Minerva Lopez Memorial Taco Ride in her honor.

For most of the time since, it has been Joe Lopez working and organizing the rest of the family to produce the fine meals so many of us have enjoyed.

In 1996, Senor Lopez passed away and was buried next to Senora Lopez in a small cemetery nearby. All rides converge and pass by it on Ford Highway, just before the farm.

The cost has risen over the years. I doubt that they ever made a profit on it. Certainly for years they only broke even. Like all of our Sunday rides, the ridership has declined, usually just under forty.

The Lopez family has been so good to us for so many years, but, sadly, it seems like time to let the tradition pass into history. This will be the last Taco Ride. Joe said he will make tamales! The AABTS will partially subsidize the cost of the ride, so it will only cost \$5 per person.

The ride is July 17th. Watch for it in the Ride Calendar. Please make reservations, and join us in a final standing ovation to the Lopez family, to thank them for all they have given us over the years. If the weather is bad, drive out, and we'll eat in the large garage!

Others besides Ken have sweet memories of the Taco Ride. Dieter and Carol Hohnke first met on the ride and later married. It was the first club ride for Vickie Smith and Frank Lamitola. How about you? What are your memories associated with the Taco Ride? ."Let us know." By emailing the newsletter editor; Lynda Collins at lyndac@provide.net





# **AABTS Horsey Hundred 2005 Friday May 27 Group Dinner**

Attention: Reserve by Sunday, May 22, for

Friday May 27 5:00 pm at Biancke's Restaurant, Cynthiana, KY (35 min. drive from Georgetown, KY)

Join AABTS members for dinner at historic Biancke's Restaurant, 3 S Main St, Cynthiana, KY 41031, (859) 234-3443 (in business since 1894 and famous for homemade pies!). Arrive between 5:00 and 5:30 pm, Friday evening; place individual orders for dinner at 5:30 pm. Order off Biancke's standard menu, with a wide range of entrees (including steaks, seafood, vegetarian, pasta, and low-fat) priced from \$8.00 -12.00. Each person will be responsible for his/her own food order and bill. Reservations required with AABTS so we can reserve adequate space for our group in advance in Biancke's first floor "Station Room" (same as last year).

# Make Dinner Reservation by Sunday, May 22, with:

Name: Carol Hohnke

Phone: 734-663-6401 (leave message) E-mail: carolhohnke@comcast.net

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### **Directions to Biancke's Restaurant**

3 S Main St Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859) 234-3443

### Starting from:

US-62/US- 460 - Georgetown, KY to 3 S Main St, Cynthiana, KY

20 miles 35 mins

- 1. Depart from corner of US-62/US-460 & I75 in Georgetown. 0.1 mi.
- 2. Turn RIGHT onto US-62 E. 17.9 mi.
- 3. Turn LEFT onto US-62/US-27. 0.6 mi.
- 4. US-62/US-27 becomes US-62/US-27/KY-32. 1.1 mi.
- 5. US-62/US-27/KY-32 becomes US-62/US-27. 0.1 mi.
- 6. In Cynthiana turn RIGHT onto Main Street. 0.1 mi.
- 7. Biancke's Restaurant is on the LEFT



# 2005 Michigan Ride of Silence By Mark Erzen



This year, Southeast Michigan will be honoring cyclists that have been killed or injured on Wednesday May 18th at the Michigan Ride of Silence. The Ride of Silence started in Texas when a local cycling organization chose to honor one of their fallen cyclists in an informal ride. Over the past few years, the Ride of Silence has gone national and will be held in more than 50 major cities across the country. The Ride of Silence's charter is simple:

- To HONOR those who have been injured or killed.
- To RAISE AWARENESS that we are here.
- To ask that we all SHARE THE ROAD

The ride is a silent procession of riders, no more than 12mph in speed, and will be approximately 12 miles in length. The Michigan Ride of Silence will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center on Hines Drive near Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. Members of many local cycling organizations will be participating. AABTS riders can check in at the normal Wednesday FEF ride check-in and ride to the start, or sign in at Nankin Mills. Please join us on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

# 2005 Mileage Leaders (Corrected!) By Mark Erzen

After observing the confused looks on the faces of Tom and John when we handed them their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place mileage trophies, Dan and I went back to the mileage sheets and realized that, well, we're not perfect. Although our 2005 was calculated correctly by mileage chair Vickie Smith and audited closely by mileage czar Buster the Dog, we put the wrong names with the wrong mileage on our trophies. Therefore, John and Tom got the wrong trophies.

Said Dan Harrison, "I just couldn't believe that John Pierce fell all the way to 3<sup>rd</sup> place!" While this does seem improbable, both Gary "the singing cyclist" Francis and "Smooth" Tom Sleeker did actually finish the year with more mileage than John "the machine" Pierce. "Tom rode so many miles that his'Buzz Off' saddle just says 'Buff' now", said President Mark Erzen. Thanks to Dan Harrison for quickly correcting the error and re-presenting Tom and John with their new trophies. For the record, the mileage awards are as follows.

#### Ladies

Sharon Sleeker – 8311 Rita Straith – 6546 Wendy D'Haene – 5685

#### Gentlemen

Gary Francis – 9859 Tom Sleeker – 9202 John Pierce – 8749

# Road Rage Reviewed By Mark Erzen

In the past couple of weeks, I've experienced and heard about a couple of motorists taking out their driving frustrations on cyclists on our rides. In my particular experience, the driver of a red Toyota Tacoma pickup truck cut in front of the lead rider in our group, attempted to kick up dust by driving off the road, and slammed on the brakes in front of us, forcing us to take evasive action. The driver actually lost control of the car and skidded to a stop sideways in the middle of the road.

A few of us wondered what we did to set this driver off, and even questioned whether or not we were riding as far to the right as we should. In my opinion, the answer is this: While that may be the case and we should be better cyclists, the reaction from the driver was totally inappropriate. He almost hurt himself and 6 cyclists. A simple honk of the horn or yelling "move over" would have gotten the point across.

While we probably would have liked to have exchanged unpleasantries with the driver and left a few marks on him and his vehicle, we did the smart thing. We got the driver's license plate, called 911 and reported the incident. For those that experience similar incidents on the road, please do the same. Don't get involved in an argument with an angry driver and risk further injury. Get their license plate on the record and let the police handle the situation.





# Tragic Accident Takes a Young Rider's Life By Mark Erzen

We are deeply saddened by the loss of a young cyclist's life in a tragic accident along one of our eastern cycling routes. On the evening of Sunday, April 10th, Todd Schoenheide of Northville and Dan Foster of Livonia were struck by a fast-moving vehicle while riding on Ann Arbor Road in Superior Township. The driver was south-bound on Gottfredson Road when he drove right through the stop sign at Ann Arbor Road and broadsided Todd and clipped Dan Foster. Todd was killed instantly by the impact and Dan Foster suffered a severe hand injury that will require surgery. Authorities believe that the vehicle was travelling in excess of 70mph and that the driver was under the heavy influence of alcohol.

Todd was a junior at Northville High School, where he was a member of the football and wrestling teams and a trumpet player. He also was an active member of the Boy Scouts and was working towards the Eagle Scout Badge. Todd was training for some long distance rides this summer, including our One Helluva Ride in July. Dan Foster is the store manager at D&D Bicycles in Northville and a good friend to many cyclists that stop by the store for parts, service, advice, or just to talk about bike riding. Todd and Dan worked together at the shop and they rode together frequently after work as they were doing that Sunday night.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Todd Schoenheide, his classmates, coworkers, and friends. We also pray for the speedy recovery of Dan Foster and wish him well as he weds Jennifer Bixby later this summer. The AABTS has made donation to the memory of Todd Schoenheide. We're all a bit more wary of our surroundings and wish everyone a safe and pleasant summer of riding.

# Letters to the Editor

April 16, on the Dexter Breakfast ride, I felt in danger of being either forced off the road or hit by 1 or more bikers on 2 occasions. 2 different clusters of about 14 fast cyclers passed me hollering "on your left" but failing to move far enough to THEIR left to leave me enough space to feel comfortable. I HOPE these bikers were NOT from OUR club. WE know better.

I am curious if anyone else felt threatened on that ride as I did? If so, could you reply to me? Thank you.

Anne Ormand
734-662-5052 or
a.ormand@att.net

# A letter from Dan Foster Of D&D Bike Shop

#### HIEVERYONE;

I SAW THE DOCTOR TODAY ONE WEEK AFTER THE SURGERY. THE DOC SAID EVERYTHING WENT GREAT. HE WAS ABLE TO PUT EVERYTHING BACK IN PLACE. PINS WERE PUT IN AT THE BASE OF MY THUMB WHERE THERE WAS A BREAK .MY INDEX AND MIDDLE FINGERS WERE PUT BACK IN PLACE AND PINED ALSO AND A BONE ON THE BACK OF MY HAND WHICH I DON'T KNOW THE NAME OF WAS PUSHED DOWN INTO POSITION.

I HAVE A REALLY COOL LIGHT WEIGHT BREATHABLE CAST. THE PINS IN MY FINGERS WILL COME OUT IN THREE WEEKS AND THE THUMB WILL TAKE ABOUT EIGHT WEEKS.

THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

AABTS 7





The People (and Buster) on the beach at Gulfport.

Pictures By Alice Rawson



The group dines alfresco at Safety Harbor.

### PINELLAS PEOPLE

While Michigan folk and Ann Arborites were enjoying a great ski season due to this year's abundant winter snow, a few club members were traveling the Pinellas Trail near Clearwater, Florida. Vicki Smith, Frank Lamitola, Dick and Shirley Ceely, Bob and Alice Rawson, Bob Hall, Jan Moore, Eileen McFarland, Lynda Collins and Buster spent time in the sunshine biking.

One of the leaders, Connie Cavanaugh missing due to her husband's illness, is usually in charge of various fun activities and Snowbird Week. She was definitely missed.

The Pinellas Trail is forty-eight miles long and extends from St. Petersburg, Florida to Tarpon Springs, Florida. It's a wide path that Florida has paved and maintained for bikers, walkers, and others who enjoy the outdoors. Since the area is crisscrossed with major highways, the state has invested in building bridges (the Florida hills) that transport the riders over these busy roads so seldom do they need to stop for traffic lights or worry about cars buzzing by. Future plans apparently will extend the trail so it will come full circle and cover approximately 100 miles. Wouldn't it be nice if The State of Michigan would also comit funding to improve bike lanes or paths?

Additional trails pass through towns like Safety Harbor and Ozona along the Gulf Shore and bike lanes along roads lead to parks with herons, egrets, and ibises and other wildlife. The group traveled over the Gandy Bridge into Tampa Bay to circle the bay and Davis Island and view the cruise ships prior to their week long departure to the Caribbean. Honeymoon Island was another day's adventure as was Fort Desoto Park. Another ride featured travel along Sand Key crossing the causeway into Clearwater Beach. Like northern bike rides, destination lunch spots were highlights and goals. Lunches were tasty with grouper sandwiches, fried green tomatoes, authentic Greek food, and other seafood choices. Restaurant meals were al Fresco, and there were picnics on the beach in Gulfport or along Fort Desoto beach.

After a day's biking, a visit to the hot tub, swim in the pool, walk on the beach, or a trip to the dog park, settled one in for a good night's sleep.





# March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 7:00PM Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM Present were:

#### Board members

Barb Underwood Ada Johnson Ted Green Steu White

Also Present were:

#### Officers

Dave Patria Treasurer Mark Erzen President

### Old Business

- 1. Charitable Donations
  - \$1,500 Lu Chaney Fund
  - \$250 Ecology Center
  - \$200 York Baptist Church
  - \$100 North Lake Methodist Church
  - \$1,000 Programs to Educate All Cyclists
  - \$200 Plymouth District Library (already paid)

All approved unanimously

- 2. Steu asked members to give some thought to the question of what kind of advertisements or announcements are appropriate to include in the newsletter. This is a matter to be considered at leisure and discussed again later.
- 3. Budget

Dave distributed copies of the new budget.

The budget was approved provisionally on a line item basis pending some small corrections.

4 Steu proposed that the proposed new by-laws be permanently tabled.

The proposal was defeated on a vote of 3 to 1.

The vote was:

Steu White yes
Barb Underwood no
Ada Johnson no
Ted Green no

5. Ted Green proposed that the August 21, 2004 version of the new by-laws be adopted with no further changes.

The proposal passed on a vote of 3 to 1. The vote was:

Steu White no
Barb Underwood yes
Ada Johnson yes
Ted Green yes

6. The treasurer pointed out that we are overdue for an audit and the board will take that measure up at the next meeting.

**AABTS** 







# March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 8:00PM Annual Meeting of Members

Meeting Called to Order at 8:00PM Quorum verified (97 voting members)

### President's Report - Mark Erzen

Mark recognized the following club volunteers for outstanding contributions over the past year:

Dave Patria - Treasurer

James Partridge & Roger Faber – improving communications with Waterloo Township on OHR 2004.

Ken Bawcom - Ride Calendar Chair

Bill Johnson – Ride leader and unofficial club recruiter

Bud Preston – Beginner training rides last year

Paul Allman – educating the ride captains

Carole Hann – Safety newsletter and Road I program

Ann Hunt – Ride calendar, mailing lists, OHR volunteer chair, and doing everything else that needed to be done.

Liz Calhoun - OHR Facilities Chair

### **Board of Directors Election**

3 Positions on the board open for 2-year terms (Wil McWhirter, Ted Green, Barb Underwood)

### Nominees:

Chris Marble Kathleen Donahoe Barb Underwood Manfred Schmidt

Votes (top 3 vote getters elected to board):

Chris Marble – 66

Kathleen Donahoe – 75

Barb Underwood – 58

Manfred Schmidt – 52

Congratulations to Chris, Kathleen, and Barb for election to the board.





# SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2005 ONE HELLUVA RIDE IS COMING! ONE HELLUVA RIDE IS COMING!

Save the Date and RUN to your nearest land line, cell phone or computer to contact one of the three Graces -

Vickie Smith 996-9461 (vickie.smith@comcast.net) Ann Hunt 761-1147 (aehunt@comcast.net) Shirley Ceely 662-8266 (sailnickelby@bignet.net)

 and to volunteer your welcome and needed services for this very special Club Invitational. There are many, many jobs available on Friday, July 8, in the afternoon and evening, and on Saturday, July 9, from 4 a.m.-6 p.m.

Over 200 enthusiastic volunteers are needed to stage this event. The Graces will be making phone calls, sending emails and even cornering people at rides to recruit workers, so check your calendar now for your availability.

A volunteer pre-party on Thursday evening, July 7, and an Afterglow party after 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, will add to the fun and camaraderie.



# **AABTS Photo Album**

by Ann Hunt



The group Heads for breakfast on Saturday morning to Dexter, Chelsea, and beyond .



Dan Harrison, Vickie Smith and Cassandra, a reporter for the Detroit Free Press, begin their ride to Chelsea.





Ann Hunt, Charlotte Marcotte and Dave Patria enjoy their "Medicare Birthdays" on the ride of the same name.



Vivian and Jack Phillips celebrate their 50th anniversary at the AABTS Spring Potluck. CONGRATULATIONS Vivian and Jack