

Traveler

Get ready to roll with biking events statewide.

Andrea Zani

There may be no better time for bicycling in Wisconsin than August and September. Late summer brings plenty of pleasant weather along with all sorts of opportunities to hit the road on two wheels. Here are 10 ride events to consider, representing just a sampling of the bountiful biking activity offered throughout the state in the next two months.

Tour de Cheese

When: Aug. 12
Where: Green County
Distances: 15 and 50 miles
Cost: \$40

Ride details: Tour de Cheese is staged at Monroe Middle School, 1220 16th Ave., Monroe, winding through the rolling hills of Green County. Riders can enjoy rest stops at several cheese factories along the way. The course is supported from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and rides start at 8 a.m. (50-mile) and 10 a.m. (15-mile). Same-day registration is available at the middle school from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.; must be 18 to register. Proceeds benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Green County.

Website: bbbsgreencounty.org/events/tour-de-cheese

Hitting 4 the Cycle

When: Aug. 12
Where: Milwaukee
Distance: 25 miles
Cost: \$50, plus \$50 in fundraising required

Ride details: Hitting 4 the Cycle is a quarter-century ride starting and ending at Miller Park, raising money to benefit the Brewers Community

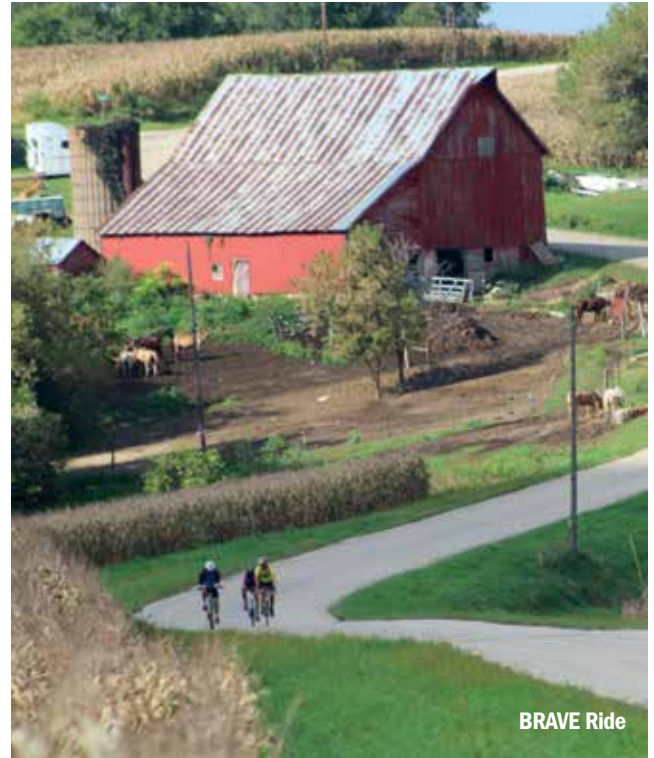
Foundation, Urban Ecology Center, American Cancer Society and DreamBikes. The route includes portions of the Oak Leaf Trail along Milwaukee's lakeshore and the Hank Aaron State Trail. Online registration closes at midnight on Aug. 9; day-of-event signup is available for \$125 (no additional fundraising required). Open to all ages. All riders start at 1:30 p.m., returning to the Miller Park lot for a free post-ride tailgate party until 6 p.m. The Brewers play the Cincinnati Reds at 6:10 p.m., and registered riders receive one Club Outfield Box ticket to the game (or option to choose another selected Brewers game).

Website: brewers.com/bikeride

Ride to the Barns

When: Aug. 19
Where: Hartford area
Distances: 30 and 60 miles
Cost: \$75 through Aug. 14; \$95 after

Ride details: Event begins and ends at Camp Quad, 6886 County Road Q (highways Q and 83) south of Hartford; 8 a.m. departure for 60-mile route and 9 a.m. for 30-mile



Brave Ride

ERIC FRYDENLUND

route. The ride travels through Lake Country with rest stops at area farms featuring locally sourced foods, plus a post-ride party until 3 p.m. back at Camp Quad. Riders under 18 are welcome if accompanied by parent or guardian. Ride benefits the Tall Pines Conservancy in Waukesha County, which works to preserve farmlands and natural areas.

Website: tallpinesconservancy.org (under "events")

La Crosse Area Bicycle Festival

When: Sept. 1-4
Where: Staged at Cameron Park, 4th and King streets in downtown La Crosse

Distances: Numerous routes are offered

Cost: Basic registration is free; premium registration, which includes map booklet, T-shirt, entry to Saturday night tour party and more, is \$40 through the end of August and \$45 after.

Ride details: A variety of road ride options take cyclists into the scenic Mississippi River Valley areas around La Crosse during this Labor

Day weekend event. These self-supported and self-guided rides have suggested start windows and maps accessible via smartphone or on cue sheets available at Cameron Park. There also are guided interest rides within the city, suitable for families and leaving Cameron Park at designated times.

Website: bicyclelacrosse.com

Nicolet Wheel-A-Way

When: Sept. 2
Where: Three Lakes area
Distances: 18 and 36.5 miles
Cost: \$40 for individuals; \$80 for family of two adults and two children, plus \$20 for each additional child ages 6-17

Ride details: Beautiful scenery of the Nicolet National Forest and Three Lakes chain of lakes area is on display at this annual leisure ride in Wisconsin's Northwoods. The ride, suitable for all ages, starts at 9:20 a.m. at Don Burnside Park in Three Lakes; check in and register on-site from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Lunch is served back at the park from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Website: threelakes.com

Fat Tire Ride of Lake Geneva

When: Sept. 9

Where: Lake Geneva, Fontana and Williams Bay

Distance: 21.5 miles

Cost: \$35 through Aug. 31 when online registration closes; \$40 after that by mail or on-site at event

Ride details: This ride is for ages 21 and older, traveling on paved roads clockwise around Geneva Lake. It begins at rider's leisure at Champs Sports Bar & Grill, 747 W. Main St., Lake Geneva, between 9-11 a.m. There are rest stops at pubs along the way and a post-ride pig roast at Champs, 2-7 p.m. Event proceeds benefit area charities including the Walworth County Alliance for Children.

Website: fattiride.com

SepTimber Ride

When: Sept. 9

Where: Vilas County

Distances: 28 miles (trail ride) and 31 miles (road ride)

Cost: \$50

Ride details: The trail ride option takes cyclists along the scenic Three Eagle Trail (limestone aggregate surface) from Tribute Brewing Co., 1106 N. Bluebird

Road in Eagle River, to the Three Lakes Winery in Three Lakes, where sampling is included. Full round-trip is 28 miles, but riders can turn around at any point for a shorter outing. The road ride begins at Tribute Brewing and travels on county roads to the Conover area and back for a 50K loop (31 miles). Event check-in and same-day registration begin at 8 a.m., and the ride window is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants from both rides are welcome to a post-ride brat picnic and beer tasting from noon to 2 p.m. at Tribute Brewing. Rides are self-guided, and participants must be 21 or older.

Website: eagleriver.org (under "events")

Kickapoo BRAVE Ride

When: Sept. 16

Where: Gays Mills and the Kickapoo Valley

Distances: approximately 11 to 100 miles, depending on loops ridden

Cost: \$45 by Sept. 1 or \$50 after (add \$10 for tent camping site); children 12 and under are free

Ride details: The ninth annual Kickapoo BRAVE Ride (Bluffs, Rivers and Valley Event) starts and ends at the Kickapoo Stump



KEELIN MCMURTAGH

Dodger Campground, 388 S. Railroad St., in Gays Mills. It features a four-loop cloverleaf system that allows riders to select from beginner, intermediate and advanced ride options with different destinations. One loop heads west to the Ferryville Fall Fest and Mississippi River Valley, for example, while another goes north to the Driftless Area Art Festival in Soldiers Grove. Participants can pedal multiple loops for a longer ride, and new this year is a shorter family-friendly loop. Check-in begins at 6:30 a.m., with a mass start at 8 a.m.

Website: kickapoobraveride.com

Peninsula Century Fall Challenge

When: Sept. 16

Where: Door County

Distances: 25, 50, 62 and 100 miles

Cost: \$50 through Aug. 30, \$55 Sept. 1-13 and \$60 on-site Sept. 15-16 if available; 25-mile route is \$5 less

Ride details: The scenic sights of Door Peninsula's northern tip are on display in this ride, open to all ages, which offers routes of varying distances and difficulties. All rides start and end at Sister Bay's Waterfront Park, 648 N. Bayshore Dr., with well-stocked rest stops along

the way including tiki party and Viking pep rally themes. The three longer rides have a rollout start beginning at 7 a.m., and the 25-mile ride begins at 9 a.m. Post-ride food will be provided from area chefs, with refreshments from Door County Brewing Co., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register early, as ride spots are limited.

Website: peninsulacentury-fallchallenge.com

Autumn Trek Ride

When: Sept. 17

Where: River Falls

Distances: 25, 45, 65 and 101 miles

Cost: \$35 online through Sept. 13 or \$40 on-site day of ride; \$10 for ages 18 and under

Ride details: Four routes are offered, with varying lengths and degrees of difficulty. All rides start at Hoffman Park, at Division Street and Highway 35 in River Falls, and take riders through the scenic countryside of western Wisconsin. Rest stops offer food and drink along the way and there will be hot dogs and brats at ride's end. Register online in advance or 7 to 10 a.m. at the park on ride day.

Website: rivervalleytrails.org

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