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### Chris McQueen, Bike Enthusiast, Speaks



Chris answered the first question he is normally asked: Is he related to Steve McQueen? He is not. His ancestors came from Scotland. As a bicyclist, he has never been on Ragbrai. He has lived in Iowa for four years and will probably go on that ride someday, if he can find the right group of people to ride with.

Chris grew up in Utah, started bicycling in 1994, and rode in the desert and on fire roads there. His wife has competed in several wheelchair bicycling races. She won several races and came in 6<sup>th</sup> in the Boston Marathon for her class.

He does stop at Stop signs when riding. In Idaho and Colorado, a Stop sign legally is the same as a Yield sign for bicycles.

Cyclocross is a form of bicycle racing. Races typically take place in the autumn and winter, and consist of many laps of a short course featuring pavement, wooded trails, grass, steep hills and obstacles requiring the rider to quickly dismount, carry the bike while navigating the obstruction and remount. Cyclocross is very popular in Europe and a very competitive sport with very stringent rules. Bicycles have wider tires than road bikes.

Gravel racing uses smaller tires than cyclocross, but are wider than most bikes, and is all about having fun with no rules. Chris started the Iowa Gravel Series, publishing the first race in March 2020 for a September race. He didn't want more than 100 participants and 95 showed up. This year Chris organized five races, one per month on a Saturday, with each race 100 kilometers or 62 miles. The first one was the

Silver City Century on May 8 with 125 participants; the second was the Waukon 100 with 50 participants. The others are Albia Rock Road, Preparation Pisgah, and Glenwood Gravel Grinder.

The races are self-supporting with a \$50 registration fee. They run from 7:00 am- 1:00 pm, with a couple of stops along the way. Participants get a T shirt and a meal at the end. Riders sign a liability waiver. Chris also has a \$1M liability policy. He gives out flyers to houses along the path so they know about the race and keep their dogs away from the riders. 10%-15% of the participants are competing for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes in the men and women divisions. Others are just riding for fun. His youngest rider was 12 and the oldest was about 90. Chris said his 15 year old son takes pictures along the way.

A good gravel road bike will cost \$500-\$5000, with most in the \$1000-\$1500 range. They range from a 10 speed to a 24 speed. More information is available at [IowaGravelSeries.com](http://IowaGravelSeries.com)

Next week's speaker is Tim Dickmeyer from Iowa Western Arts Center.

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**"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough."**

**Oprah Winfrey**

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### Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were 11 members and three guests: Chris McClain, John Ross Biedermann, and Devin Vorthmann. Dale Willenborg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dee Gutttau gave the opening prayer.

Dee Gutttau won the 50/50 drawing. Kirk Vorthmann won the attendance drawing but was not present. Jim Clausen's birthday was observed.

**Bragging Rights: (\$ are used for youth activities)**

- Marsha Underwood and Kevin Underwood each contributed to announce that St. Albert Baseball Team won state!
- Dee Guttau donated today because Peanuts Plumping (Oakland) is working on their house changing copper pipe to plastic.
- John Klein congratulated Ashlyn Vorthmann for being selected as WestFair Queen and Stella Umphreys was named Miss Congenial. He stated Treynor kids are doing well at Fair.
- Dale Willenborg contributed because Dennis White substituted for him at WestFair helping with gates.

**BUSINESS:**

**Scholarship:**



Devon Vorthmann was present to receive his \$500 Optimist Scholarship. Devon stated he will attend the University of Iowa, and will take General Education classes. Best wishes, Devon!

L-R: Devon Vorthmann, Dale Willenborg

**Can Kennel Sorting:** We are \$725 from having raised a total of \$200,000 in can kennel cash to benefit all the youth organizations. The Optimists made \$1385 at the last kennel count.

**Community:**



John Ross Biedermann was present to give an update on his Eagle Scout project. He cleaned and painted the dugout at the East Park. He gave tribute to Mertes Welding for giving him a discount on letters for the

team dugouts indicating, "Home" and "Visitors".

The mayor is honoring John Ross at the Monday night council meeting at the Community Building for completing his Eagle Project. The public is invited.

John Klein announced he and his wife and Dave Dowling picked 10 buckets of sweet corn which was donated to the Treynor Food Pantry.

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

**HUMOR**

**"Among retirees, what is considered formal attire? Tied shoes"**

**"Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic, or garage? They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult children will want to store stuff there."**

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**Calendar**

**Birthdays**

- Aug 11 Chad Guttau
- Aug 23 Judy Guttau

**Anniversaries**

- Aug 5 Josh & Shelly Guttau
- Aug 13 Jerry & Barb Hempel
- Aug 25 Gary & Julia Funkhouser

**Programs**

- Aug Bill Vorthmann
- Sept Shelly Bailey (first two)  
Josh Guttau (last two)
- Oct John Klein

**Speakers**

- Aug 7 Tim Dickmeyer, Iowa Western Arts Center
- Aug 14 TBA
- Aug 21 TBA
- Aug 28 Wendy Andersen, Splash Pad

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575