

The 3 River Ride
August 29 & 30, 2009

Ten TAB riders and two sag volunteers journeyed from Grand Rapids to Celina, OH and back for a 224 mile ride. It was quite the adventure. With great planning by Rick and Linda Metcalf, the course was safe and beautiful. We followed the Maumee River to Defiance, and then we traversed south along the Auglaize River to Oakwood, OH. Phil's Diner in Oakwood served up great Dr. Pepper pancakes, oatmeal, and for some - hamburgers with fries for our noon refueling. Phil went out of his way to accommodate our bikes, even blocking off the alley for us to park them off road. He also called the sheriff to get current road conditions of an upcoming road construction site.

Our next rest stop was in Delphos at a carry-out for some needed power aid and carbs for the last leg to Celina. The wind was in our face, and this is where the group's encouragement and drafting kicked in.

Before hitting the Mason County Fairground's camp site we went to the Country Bike Shop in Celina. The owners there were very helpful in fixing our problems with broken spokes and such. The fairground was clean and gave us quite a large area to ourselves. The winds were a blowing though, and it took two of us to set up each tent. After a warm shower, we were off for dinner in New Bremen. LaPizza was expecting us and they lived up to the reputation. Their Italian selections were excellent. Next door, the Bike Museum stayed opened late. This is a must see for all bikers. The displays were artfully done and the history of bikes was very interesting. I think we were all a little tired to take it all in. It was amazing to see all of the different types of bikes they had from old to new, from Pee Wee's Great Adventure bike to the land speed record bike of 135 mph. I hope to go back someday to see it again.

It was back to the campground for a great night of sleep. We were up and on the road at 8 am for the ride home. The route home was the reverse of the journey there. And of course, the wind changed direction, and it was back in our faces again. But at the end of the journey, there was the great satisfaction of riding the 224 miles and of the course the gathering of all the great road stories to go along with the ride.

Over all I would rate this ride as (EXCELLENT). The roads had low traffic, our sag drivers were there for us, and the group of riders were there for each other. What else could you ask for?

Mark Sulewski

A View From Behind the Wheel

Holli and I volunteered to drive the sag cars for our husbands and the other eight bikers and we both found that it was fun from our side of the wheel also.

It is a little challenging following a bike route made for bikers and not cars. Cutting through a Boy Scout camp was a little tricky for cars but interesting to say the least. I enjoyed the stops along the way, the great dinner, and seeing the bike museum. Since I love camping, the night in the tent was great for me.

The sights along the way of the winding rivers and straight country roads passing numerous corn fields was a nice way to spend the weekend. The pig farms were also interesting with their loud sounds and even stronger smells.

I am glad I got to be part of this late summer ride.

Jill Sulewski