

Banner

September 2001

DIFFERENCE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

Does the newsletter look a little skimpy this month? (And maybe not as polished as usual?)

Our editor suffered serious injuries August 9 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado in a bicycle crash. George is doing well under the circumstances, but is presently unable to produce the newsletter.

Anyone who questions the value of a helmet should talk to George and/or take a look at his helmet.

CYCLE THE DIVIDE

By Bob Lummis

On August 9, George, Jack and I arrived in Steamboat Springs, Colorado for a six day long mountain bike ride along the route of the Continental Divide. The ride was organized and conducted by Adventure Cycling Association. This route would take us 280 miles from Steamboat Springs to Salida and take us across at least one mountain pass every riding day.

Our trip was immediately marred when George had a serious bicycle crash while on a warm-up ride Thursday afternoon. This crash put him in the hospital in Steamboat Springs for the rest of the week and knocked him out of the ride. Jack & I went ahead and started the ride Sunday, but George's crash and his not being with us made that hard to do.

Our first day was a short day, with about 2000' of climbing and an official distance of 33.5 miles. It was a pretty day, and not particularly challenging. When we arrived at our campsite for the night however, we were to find that the baggage truck had broken down and our equipment would not arrive for several hours.

The next day took us over a 9,000-foot pass and then on a 10-mile downhill run where we lost 2,000 feet. (And then had to immediately make up 1,200 feet of it.) Although other days were billed to be more scenic, this was my favorite. It was spectacular, especially during the long downhill run. We passed through the small town of Radium and proceeded to Kremmling, where we spent the night and fed the mosquitoes.

Tuesday's ride took us over Ute Pass (9730'), along a not so pleasant ten or twelve miles of Highway 9 (heavy traffic, no shoulders), through Silverthorne, and along a really nice seven mile-long paved bike trail to the town of Frisco. This ride was supposed to be our most scenic day, but it wound up raining most of the day. I encountered fairly heavy rain about 5 miles before I made it to Ute Pass. By the time I got there, I was frozen in spite of my rain gear. After a quick sandwich at the SAG stop and a few minutes out of the rain, I started my descent from the pass. This was not a fun downhill run. It was raining so hard I could barely see the road and my fingers and toes were numb from the cold. The only consolation was that as I lost altitude, it did start to warm up.

Once I got to Frisco, things immediately started to look up. The sun came out, it warmed up, and Frisco is a very nice place to be. Wednesday was a do-your-own-thing day, we remained in Frisco camped on the soccer field at the Frisco Middle School. I passed the day by walking around the town and cleaning up my bike after the rainy day Tuesday.

Thursday was our longest day (63 miles) with our highest pass to cross. (Boreas Pass, 11,482') This is also the point at which we crossed the Continental Divide. The climb from Breckenridge to Boreas Pass is a railroad grade climb, but is steep for that and about 15 miles long. The trip down was about the same, and

made for a thrilling ride. The ruts in the road and loose gravel almost made it a little too thrilling at times. The only downside of this day was a four-mile ride into the wind along US Highway 24 to get to our campsite at Hartsel Springs Ranch. It seemed like 40 miles by the time I'd ridden it.

Our last day was a 49 mile run from Hartsel to Salida. We didn't have a lot of altitude to gain that day, but what we did was very steep. After crossing at Watershed Divide (9,975'), we had an equally steep 10 mile-long downhill run into Salida. This ride was both beautiful and exciting. Due to the steepness, prudence dictated frequent stops to cool the rims, so this also allowed time to take in some of the best scenery of the trip and take some pictures.

In Salida, we showered, changed, and boarded a bus that took us back to Steamboat Springs. It was a great week, but as I pointed out in the beginning, marred considerably by George's unfortunate accident.

HOTTER'N HELL HUNDRED

It was (well, what else can you say about it?)... It was Hotter'N Hell! According to the Wichita Falls Times Record News, the gates to shorten the century route were closed early for only the third time in the ride's 20-year history.

Bartlesville had good representation at the ride, with most doing the full century in spite of the heat. Some of our Houston section were also seen for the event. (Rumor has it that Michael Smith even rode Saturday!)

MID-WEEK RIDES

Road Rides

Tuesday road rides leave from Johnstone Park at 6:00 pm. The Thursday evening road rides leave Sooner Park at 6:00 pm. Destinations will be determined at the time of the ride.

Wednesday Evening Knobby-Tire Ride: Time – 6:00 pm

*** Note Time Change***

Our Wednesday evening knobby-tire rides are similar to the Tuesday-Thursday road rides, only these are for mountain bikes on local dirt roads. We meet at 6:00 pm at various locations for 15-30 mile rides on dirt roads. See the following for meeting location and description of the ride. It is recommended that you call around first to see who is riding before going out to the ride.

September 5 – Onion Prairie Road. A loop through Ochelata, mostly on gravel roads. This route has a GREAT downhill on it. Approximately 18 miles. Meet at the radio towers at Onion Prairie Road, at the top of the hill on Hwy 123 as you leave town toward Woolaroc.

September 12 - Mullendore Ranch Route. An approximate 20 mile route, from Copan Lake Dam to Mullendore Ranch and back. Shorter options available. Meet at the parking area below the spillway at Copan Dam.

September 19 - The Wann America Knobby-Tire Loop. A pleasant 20 mile loop around Wann that begins and ends at the post-office. Be sure to visit Six Flagpoles over Wann America while you are there! Meet in the parking lot of the Wann post-office on Highway 10.

September 26 – Paseo de Nowata Loop. An 18 mile loop in western Nowata County, South of Highway 60. Meet in the triangle at the junction of Road 2400 (Moose Lodge Road) and Road 4020.

October 3 – Cotton Valley Loop. Meet at the junction of County Roads 0700 and 3990. (One mile East of Highway 75 on the road just North of the Copan Truck Stop.) About 20 miles rambling through northern Washington County.

October 10 – More Moore Ranch Road Loop.

A 15-18 mile loop around the high prairie West of Nowata. Shorter options available. Meet at the junction of Nowata County Roads 4050 & 0200. (Go straight on the gravel road at the first big curve on Highway 60 after crossing Hogshooter Creek.)

WEEKEND RIDES

Saturday Morning Road Rides:

Call Joel Martin at 333-8294 for details concerning any of the rides. **All rides for September will leave Johnstone park at 7:30 am.** Announce your ride intentions on ride day and we can form groups to cover different distances.

We will still keep the rides at 7:30 am until September 29. It can be quite hot and dry in September. **Mark your calendars for the change to 8 am on October 6**

September 1 - Ramona via McEwen Hill.

Leave Johnstone Park at 7:30 am, pass through Ochelata and out to the southwest and finally down McEwen Hill to Ramona.

September 8 - This is the Dam Jam weekend. Whoever shows up can choose a route. Barnsdall is a good choice if the wind is from the South. Leave Johnstone Park at 7:30 am.

September 15 - Oolagah. If it is not too hot we will go to Oolagah. This is about 85 miles round trip from the park. We will turn around sooner if it is too hot. Leave Johnstone Park at 7:30 am.

September 22 - Skiatook. This will be a long ride of about 85 miles through Avant and Skiatook and back through Vera and Ramona. If you want to shorten it you can go down McEwen hill to Ramona on the way to Avant. That will give you about 45. Leave Johnstone Park at 7:30 am.

September 29 - Pawhuska. We will take the out and back route through Okesa for 60 miles round trip.

Time Change to 8 am

October 7 - Barnsdall and back for 46 miles.
Note the time change to 8 am.

Sunday Afternoon “Cross Country”

TIME – 2:00 pm, PLACE – Various

September 2 – Backwards Moore Ranch Loop.

We will ride backwards around the 15-18 mile loop of the high prairie West of Nowata. Meet at the junction of County Roads 4050 & 0200.

September 9 – Eagle Rock Mountain Bike Trails.

One of our favorite places to ride! Choices of mountain biking trail that vary from beginner to advanced that are well marked. Meet in the parking area at the spillway for the Elk City Lake Dam near Independence, Kansas.

September 16 – Tall Grass Prairie Preserve.

We haven't had a good hill-climb for a while; we'll meet at the intersection of Highways 60 and 99 in the maintenance triangle there. (How many will make it to the top of the hill without stopping?)

September 23 – Onion Prairie Road. A loop through Ochelata, mostly on gravel roads. This route has a GREAT downhill on it.

Approximately 18 miles. Meet at the radio towers & Onion Prairie Road, at the top of the hill on Highway 123 as you leave town toward Woolaroc.

September 30 – Ride to Nowata. Meet in the triangle at the junction of Road 2400 (Moose Lodge Road) and Road 4020. This will be an approximately 30 mile round trip to the C-Store

by the golf course in Nowata and back.

October 7 – Osage Hills State Park. Fall is here! It is time to get back into some singletrack. Let's see if we can find all of those good trails we rode last winter and then abandoned to the growing season, the bugs and the snakes. Meet at the old rock building by the horse stables.

Information on other special cycling events

September 8, 10th Annual Dam J.A.M. Road tour 25, 50, 68, or 100 miles. \$20. For more information call 918-825-0157.

September 22, MS 150 Bike Tour, Tulsa, OK.

New bike tour web site on the net: www.nbtda.com. It has listing/calendar of rides 3 days or longer in the US, Canada, Mexico, and France.

Another web site to locate special bike rides (races and tours) is www.bicycle-rides.com. It is easy to use and you can locate rides in various radius from a hub city.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Jack Tatum supplied us with a really good watermelon for the Watermelon Ride on August 4. We missed having many of you at the Annual Ice Cream Social on August 19. We may need to schedule that earlier in the summer next year. Those of us at the Ice Cream Social had a good visit and ate too much or at least I ate too much.



It should be getting a little cooler in September so I hope to see more of you out riding. We are getting a variety of riders at our rides so you may find someone that goes your speed.

It is also getting to the time of year that we will form a nominating committee to help find officers and directors at large for next year. We need to have a few new people in these positions to generate new ideas for the club. We also don't want our members to suffer burn out from continually doing the same jobs for the club. If you are interested in being an officer please notify one of the officers or board members and we will notify the nominating committee. The club board positions are: President, Vice President/Treasurer, Secretary, Road Biking Director, Mountain Biking Director, and 2 Directors at large.

Keep on Pedaling,
Shirley Martin