



The Long Road

Newsletter for members of Randonneurs Ontario

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Message from the President

As I rode through the snow to work today, I reflected that the cycling season has truly come to an end. But that doesn't mean there aren't any Ontario Randonneur activities happening. The Board of Directors is busy with arranging the activities that will take place before the 2007 riding season begins. And there certainly is lots of work to do, with various shows, banquets and other get-togethers scheduled. But before any of this happens, now is the time to reflect back at the season past, to recall the good times, to remember those who helped, and those who had amazing rides. These memories will serve you well when it comes time to vote for the recipients of the 2006 Ontario Randonneur Awards. Voting for these awards will be online, and will start early next year. Please check the website for details.

In other news, the club jersey continues along its path towards production. A few changes have been made to the previously advertised design to accommodate the full colour logo without taking away from the overall design. The Board has heard from about 20 of you about your desire to purchase the club jersey, but there are many more whom we have not heard from. The club will not be stocking the jersey, so it is a one shot deal; if you want one (or more) you need to order it ahead of time. I look forward to hearing from more of you regarding the club jersey. Please let me know by the end of the year.

Some of the activities I referred to in the first paragraph include, but are not limited to, the following. In the Toronto area, there will be a PBP information

session combined with a health and nutrition seminar, that will take place on a Saturday afternoon in January (final date to be announced on the website and the list-serve). There will also be a New Years day ride, the Annual Awards banquet, a new members night, and our usual booth at the Toronto International Bike Show, where once again we will be able to share with people the delights of Randonneuring. The Ottawa chapter will be hosting their own Awards banquet, and there will be other events and rides held in Ottawa also. If you have any suggestions for additional wintertime activities, let any one on the Board of Directors know, and we will see what we can do to accommodate your request.

But this is a club based mainly on cycling, and 2006 was a successful year, as I am sure next year will be also. I look forward to riding with many of you in all the chapters. And a hint for a smooth transition into the next season: now is a great time to clean and maintain your bike, so it will be ready for that first ride next year. If you don't maintain it yourself, January and February are great months to take it into your favorite shop. They are quiet at that time of year, and will likely spend more time on your bike, getting it just right. Don't wait until there is a three-week wait to get your bike serviced.

Until the next ride, this is your club, let's all make the most of it.

Michael





Empire Loyalist 200

You missed quite an enjoyable Empire Loyalist 200 in Prince Edward county this year. We had a bit of everything. Some sunshine, some rain more like a Scotch Mist, some wind and fluctuating temps. It went from 20 at the start down to 14 as we crossed on the Glenora Ferry back up to 23 in Napeneen and then settled between 15 to 19 for the rest of the ride.

We had participants from 3 chapters. Dave McCaw, Peter Grant Jim Morris and Real Prefontaine from Ottawa. Thien Tran, Steve Rheault (organizer), Mike Maloney, Peter Leiss and Peggy Howorth from Toronto. Pat Little came in from Huron.

We also ran a variety of bikes. Peggy and I rode our tandem Mike rode his recumbent and Thien rode on his fixie after riding to start from Toronto.

We started in the typical Rando start at about 8:20 from the Tims in Picton. The group had waited for a while for Peggy and myself as Peggy had forgotten her cycling clothes. A local, Glen, indicated that the Bloomfield cycle shop would be open. So Peggy and I dashed out while Glen phoned the shop to warn of our arrival. After many thanks and a not an inconsiderable number of dollars we managed to find our way the start and set out. We spied the group climbing the first of a number of climbs out of Picton and soon caught up.

We sped through the country side to Millwood and down to the Bluffs conservation area under greying skies. We then headed back to Black Creek for our first control at the cheese factory enjoying curds and cookies. Up out of Black Creek we encountered one of the prettiest climbs in Ontario through a forest on a winding road with a sting in the tail. The group split up with the faster riders heading up the road. Pat decided wisely not to follow the pace as he has had limited time on the bike due to a serious knee injury. Real and Jim rode at a more moderate pace with everyone else stringing out on our way to Lake on the Mountain. We regrouped there from the

most part and enjoyed the view of the lake juxtaposed with Lake Ontario about 200 feet below.

Down the hill we went to ferry. This is when the cold front blew in. Many of us added rain wear arm and leg warmers to our clothing as the temperature dropped to 14 and we joked about snow coming with increasingly grey skies. The ride out to the power plant was into a cross wind along the Lake that would turn into a head wind as we rode up to Nappanee. This is when it started to rain. We stopped in Nappanee at a Pizza parlour and enjoyed cheese burgers and fries. It seems that there are limited options in Nappanee with a number of establishments closed. We noticed Thien riding the wrong way. We found out much later he went to Tims. The faster riders Dave Peter and Mike went on ahead. Steve Peggy and myself left a short time later. We spied Mike's bent at the cycle shop out of town. He caught Peggy and myself as Steve increased the gap up the rollers through to Deseronto. Up and over the ugliest climb of the ride the Bridge over the bay of Quinte. Nice view but a really unattractive climb. Down the other side to Green Point and up the second nicest and longest climb of the ride to look out over Hayward Long reach. The through some really quite country roads into Bloomfield for next control. This at 166 k or 100 miles. This were Thien re joined Mike Peggy and myself. Thien mentioned that he saw us up the road but could not catch on. It might have been the 235 k to the Picton start the day before that sapped his energy.

We then rode out through Bloomfield into West Lake and into the sandbanks Park. This is where there is a minor navigational challenge. That I mentioned to Mike and Thien. While the directions are clear

Southeast straight through park past Outlet River and all camp sites to exit through fence 2.7 TR 184.1k

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Randonneurs Ontario

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Empire Loyalist 200 cont.

This is not intuitively what someone who has not been there would do. However everyone seems to have got through. Both Mike and Thien agreed that local knowledge is an assist here. Pat Little mentioned later that he had trouble and needed help through this point.

The rest of the route is straight forward through Cherry valley and back into Picton to the Tims.

We enjoyed a BBQ at Steve's mothers place in Picton afterwards and reminisced of our adventures this day. This is ride you should mark on your calendars for next year. Hopefully we can get representation from all the chapters one day. Hopefully others will also report and share the photos of the ride.

Peter Leiss



Schedule 2007: Toronto

January

Monday 1 New Year's Day Ride 35

March

Sunday 11 Maple - Schomberg 60
 Sunday 18 Maple - Belfountain 125
 Sunday 25 Erin Mills - Erin 125

April

Sunday 04/08 Uxbridge Ice Classic 110
 Saturday 21 South Bruce 200
 Sunday 22 Markham - Woodville 200
 Saturday 28 Carthew Bay 200
 Saturday 28 Big Bay 200
 Sunday 29 Maple - Connestoga 300

May

Saturday 05/05 Bowel Buster 300
 Sunday 6 Gentle Start 200
 Saturday 12 Connestoga Highlands 300
 Thursday 17 Gentle Start 200
 Saturday 19 Fleche TBA
 Saturday 19 Maple-Shakespeare 400
 Saturday 19 Creemore Classic 400
 Sunday 20 Simcoe - Century 160
 Thursday 24 Erin Mills - New Hamburg 300
 Saturday 26 Alliston - Stratford 400
 Sunday 27 Rice Lake 300

June

Saturday 2 Georgian Triangle 400
 Saturday 2 March to the Marsh 600
 Sunday 3 Maple - Orillia 200
 Thursday 7 Old 400 400
 Saturday 9 March to the Nuke 600
 Sunday 10 Lakes, Vines and Valleys 300
 Saturday 16 Huron Shores 600
 Saturday 16 March to the Marsh 600
 Sunday 17 Maple - Barrie 125
 Thursday 21 Old 600 600
 Saturday 23 Creemore Classic 400
 Sunday 24 Markham - Port Perry 125
 Saturday 30 Haliburton 600

July

Sunday 1 Bits and Pieces 200
 Monday 2 Maple - Belfountain 125
 Saturday 7 Simcoe - Holland Marsh 200
 Sunday 8 Tour of the Valleys 200
 Friday 13 Creemore Classic 400
 Saturday 14 Pretty River Valley 300
 Sunday 15 Erin Mills - Erin 125

Thursday 19 Lake Ontario Loop 1000
 Saturday 21 Lake Simcoe 300
 Sunday 22 Hockley Hills 200

July

Saturday 28 Maple - Collingwood 400
 Saturday 28 Big Bay 200
 Sunday 29 Maple - Barrie 125

August

Saturday 4 Toronto - Ottawa - Toronto 1000
 Sunday 5 Bewdley Glute Buster 200
 Saturday 11 Old 400 Revisited 400
 Sunday 12 Simcoe Century 160
 Saturday 18 Tour of SW Ontario 600
 Sunday 19 Kleinburg - Belfountain 160
 Saturday 25 March to the Nuke 600

September

Sunday 2 Mean Streets 200
 Saturday 8 Empire Loyalist 200
 Sunday 9 Maple - Tottenham 110
 Saturday 15 Big Chute 200
 Sunday 16 Grand River 200
 Saturday 29 Big Chute 200
 Sunday 30 Champagne Scramble 100



Schedule 2007: Ottawa

March

Saturday	17	Almonte	60
Saturday	24	Burrits Rapids	60
Saturday	31	Wakefield	120

April

Saturday	7	Storyland	120
Saturday	14	Merrickville	200
Saturday	21	Original 200	
Wednesday	25	Gatineau Park Loops	
Saturday	28	Gatineau Park Loops	

May

Wednesday	2	Vennachar	300
Saturday	5	Alexandria	300
Wednesday	9	Alimalathon	300
Saturday	12	Vennachar	300
Saturday	26	Wakefield	200

June

Saturday	2	Westport	400
Wednesday	6	Kemptville	120
Wednesday	6	Kemptville	120
Wednesday	13	Kingston	600
Saturday	16	Placid	600
Wednesday	20	Storyland	150
Saturday	23	Storyland	150

July

Saturday	7	Coureur Du Bois	1000
Saturday	14	Foymount	400
Saturday	21	Gatineau Park Loops	
Wednesday	25	Gatineau Park Loops	
Saturday	28	Kingston	600

August

Wednesday	1	Original 200	
Saturday	4	Shawville	200
Wednesday	8	Animalathon	300
Saturday	11	Vennachar	300
Saturday	18	Westport	400

September

Saturday	1	Placid	600
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Schedule 2007: Huron

April

Saturday	21	South Bruce	200
Saturday	28	Big Bay 200	

May

Saturday	5	Bowel Buster	300
Saturday	19	Creemore Classic	400

June

Saturday	2	March to the Marsh	600
Saturday	16	March to the Marsh	600
Saturday	23	Creemore Classic	400

July

Saturday	28	Big Bay 200	
Friday 13		Creemore Classic	400

Schedule 2007: Simcoe – Muskoka

April

Saturday	28	Carthew Bay	200
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May

Saturday	12	Connestoga Highlands	300
Saturday	26	Alliston -Stratford	400

June

Saturday	9	March to the Nuke	600
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July

Saturday	7	Simcoe - Holland Marsh	200
Saturday	21	Lake Simcoe	300

August

Saturday	4	March to the Nuke	600
Saturday	11	Old 400 Revisited	400

Sept

Saturday	29	Big Chute	200
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