

## MESA Ride - Day 3 - Swanton -Archbold -Bryan -Edgerton - Hicksville - Defiance



Fourth Annual Tour for MESA  
Dear Tour—

What a day! 6 clubs in 10 hours and 100 miles. Cloudless blue skies, and only traces of any significant wind. More importantly, club donations for the day totaling \$2,650, bringing total club donations in just 3 days to more than \$22,000! Now THAT's what puts wind in OUR sails!

Breakfast in Swanton was hosted by Karen Nees, administrator of the Swanton Health Care & Retirement Center, and chef Stacey. We were also joined by District Secretary-Treasurer Paul “Bam-Bam” Smith, who along with co-conspirator Bill “Pebbles” Pepple had transformed today's excursion into a full-fledged century (100-mile) ride.

Our first stop, after 25 miles, was historic Sauder Village in Archbold (note to editor: NO “I”). We were greeted by members of the Archbold Rotary including president Kevin Eicher and past-president Marc Fruth, and treated to refreshments by Rotarian and Sauder Village manager Claire Morton. Before we left, president Eicher presented MESA with a check on behalf of the Archbold club for \$200. Thank-you, Archbold Rotary!

Our next stop, after another 20 miles, was Bryan (now a quadrennial stop). We were welcomed by past district governor Dave Perkins and Bryan Mayor Douglas Johnson. After lunch, Dave Perkins presented MESA with a check on behalf of the Bryan Rotary for \$1000. Thank-you, Bryan! Your consistent support for MESA and the Tour has truly endeared you to us!

12 miles down the road we were greeted by the Edgerton Rotary, where President Kandace Potts, Bob Day and Bill Lutterbein presented us with a check for \$250 to MESA the Tour objective. Thank-you Edgerton Rotary!

Another 13 miles brought us to Hicksville. President Mel Fahrs and other members presented a check for \$200. Thank-you, Hicksville!

The “final” 23-mile leg of the primary route brought us into Defiance, where President Jerry Overmier and other Defiance Rotary members greeted us with drinks and snacks before taking us home for showers. We then regrouped at “Charlie's Down Under,” where Defiance Rotarian and restaurateur extraordinaire Peter Lundberg hosted us for a fabulous dinner. After the meal and desert, President Overmier presented the Tour with “the cherry on top”: the Defiance Rotary's contribution to MESA of \$1,000.

This brought our single day club contributions to \$2,650. The generosity of these clubs supporting the Tour continues to overwhelm; whether big or small, each club has shown substantial effort and sacrifice, not only in supporting the Tour and its riders, but in furthering the goals of MESA through meaningful and much appreciated donations.

If you've been counting, you might note that the mileage of the "official" legs of each segment don't quite add to 100. As a "century" ride is a true accomplishment in the cycling world, a majority of the riders added "bonus" miles to the route to achieve that milestone; Tom Herberger and Kurt Anderson even ventured "behind enemy lines" into Hoosier country. And special congratulations to Jim DeSanto of Mansfield, who completed his very first century!!

It was truly a day to be proud of, for riders and clubs alike.



This article was written by Kurt Anderson

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This is the 4th year Kurt has been a rider and has been the contributing author all four years.