

MESA Ride - Day 5 - St. Marys-Kenton-Marion
by Kurt Anderson



Fourth Annual Rotary Tour for MESA
Thursday, July 17, 2008: DAY FIVE

Today was literally a turning point in the 2008 Tour: we've finished the western and southern legs of the circuit and today will be heading east. Which means tailwinds!

St. Marys Rotary President Keith Fledderjohann and welcome coordinator Linda Vogel hosted us for a catered breakfast at the Grand Lake Marys State Park. Originally built as a feeder reservoir for the Miami-Erie Canal, the 10-mile lake was

once the largest man-made lake in the world.

Our lunch stop in Kenton was 46 miles away...the longest single leg of the Tour. We were rightly concerned that the expected 95-degree heat could play havoc with our progress. Nevertheless, despite a late arrival, we were enthusiastically welcomed by President Harry H.L. Hooyenga and Kenton Rotary members Robin Rogers, owner of The Corinthian. Over a fantastic lasagna lunch, Harry and Herb discovered they shared mutual roots in Holland and jabbered away in Dutch. Such is the friendships discovered in Rotary. Thank-you, Kenton Rotary for your support and encouragement!



The final 28 miles was a scenic ride through rolling Ohio farmland. Now the afternoon winds pushed us along, and we rolled into Marion almost precisely on schedule. Greeting us were Marion Rotary's past-president James Beaver and welcome coordinator Cherie Carroll, who would be joining our ride tomorrow.

After refreshments at Mikey's Place Tavern, we met our hosts, showered, and met again for dinner at The Warehouse, regionally renowned for its Italian cuisine. Owner Tim Kildow treated us to a fantastic pasta buffet, including a tomato-basil soup that simply wowed. But first, as a pre-dinner appetizer, president-elect Kathy Masters presented a check to MESA for \$1,113.00. Thank-you Marion Rotary!

It's hard to believe that tomorrow's ride into Mansfield will be the sixth day of this Tour. Although we've covered more than 330 miles, the fellowship and laughter, both among riders and with clubs, have made the miles fly by. More importantly, we are excited to be nearing the finish line of the true Tour objective of \$50,000 raised for MESA, once all club and individual contributions are tallied. That anticipation will drive us on to the checkered flag in Fremont on Saturday.

Some additional local trivia:

--Kenton is home of the “Gene Autry Repeating Cap Pistol,” the toy which single-handedly rescued the failing Kenton Hardware Company during the Great Depression.

--60% of the world’s dryers are manufactured at Whirlpool’s Marion facility, with a daily output of 23,000 units!



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.