

# 2010 Bike Tour Is Taking Shape

*Ed Stewart, Tour Coordinator*

The planning team has been working hard to make this year's MESA Bike Tour as good or better than any we've had before. Considering how each previous tour has been interesting for participants and successful at raising money for MESA, that has been quite a challenge. But I believe we have made some nice modifications to this year's tour that will be very interesting to all – participants and organizers alike.

We will be starting on a Saturday for the first time ever. Hopefully this will help more day riders join us on Saturday and Sunday. Toledo Rotary Club has stood up to take the lead as main host for this year and our main organizers – Gary Murphy and Helyn Bolanis – have put together a nice itinerary for Friday night and Saturday's send-off. The Toledo Zoo will be a staging area and breakfast site for us.

Our Second Day will start out very different. Instead of riding our bikes we will be taking power craft from Port Clinton around Cedar Point to Sandusky Bay and enjoy a brunch at the Sandusky Yacht Club. We hope many area Rotarians will be able to join in our "flotilla." Those who have boats in the area are asked to join us along the way. More information will be available on the website here as we get closer to the Tour dates. From there we visit Huron then Vermilion then Amherst and finally land in Elyria. The first three years of the Tour we started from Elyria and this will be the first time we've ever stayed overnight there.

Day Three will see us starting out from Elyria and riding a unique bike trail, crossing the Black River a number of times then joining the Lorain Rotary in the beautiful Rotary Rose Garden on Lake Erie. Then it's a ride down to Oberlin then over to Norwalk – one of our longer days for the week.

Day Four we head west to Bellevue then Fremont for lunch then on to Fostoria. More bike trails will be used again so maybe we can dodge the probable westerly headwinds that typify that area. This will be our first time to visit Fostoria and we look forward to their friendly hospitality.

Day Five we ride to Defiance, stopping along the way at McComb and North Baltimore. Still heading west into the wind, our route follows an interesting river road that should provide many scenic views of North Central Ohio.

Our final day we head northeasterly, hopefully with tailwinds to help us along. Much of the route follows the river as we first go to Napoleon then Liberty Center then head north to Swanton and finally end up in Sylvania for a final celebration of another successful tour. Riders will be shuttled back to their vehicles in Toledo afterwards.

This year will be the same but different in a number of ways. We are hoping to attract many more riders this year and we certainly hope to repeat last year's \$62,000 level or better.

From my own experience, the more I have learned about the MESA Project the more impressed I have been over what all they have accomplished over the last thirty years. MESA is truly an amazing project with an admirable history. It is our district's gem and deserves all we can do for it. Hopefully you and your club will support it at a higher level than before. One way that can be done is by supporting a rider or team in the tour.