



Six Gap/Three Gap "The Ride"

by Dan Maddock

As I stated in the previous part of this story, Saturday was raining and raining hard, Georgia had experienced some major flooding of late, but this area had been left unaffected by it. The forecast was for it to taper off and stop around 4 or 5 in the evening and low and behold it did, it then was suppose to be partly cloudy Sunday with a slight chance of rain.

We had been out and about enjoying the area on Saturday, even with the rain, and now it was time to eat and get some sleep. The ride would start at the local high school at 7:30 am, for me, and 8:30 for Tina, so I wanted to be there no later than 6:30. This meant we needed to be up by 5:15 to be on the way by 6:00. Around 4:00 am, as I lay in bed, I hear the unmistakable sound of pouring rain and my heart sinks, all this preparation is going to go down the tubes. We get up as planned and discuss our options, if the rain remains, it is agreed that I will abandon the longer ride and join Tina on hers and we will see how far we can get. While we are finishing up our breakfast the rain stops, of course there is no way the roads will dry before 7:30 but this is promising. We load up and head for the school. Along the way I happen to look at the sky and remark to Tina "look at the sky it's full of stars" the sky was clearing. Well now there is real hope.

We arrive at the school parking lot and wow, what a sight, thousands of people and bikes fill the lot. Tina would later tell me that

once she saw all the people at the school, she knew I was doing my ride, no matter what, and wouldn't be joining her on hers. We take a walk to the school to kill some time and nervous energy as well as find some bathrooms. It is clear now why they use the high school, plenty of bathrooms for thousands of people all with nervous energy and the accompanying needs!

The eastern sky looks clear and the rising sun proves it, excitement fills the air as we all begin to head to the start area. This isn't a race but a timed event, so we all start together. We have a small timing chip around our ankles and to get a correct time you must ride across a timing pad at the start and finish. We line up on the school driveway and snake around the parking lot, 3000 bikes take up a lot of room. I start in about the middle of the pack. There is a radio station there and lots of people to cheer us on as the countdown hits zero and off we go. The start line is about 30 feet across and I would love to know how long it takes to get all those riders across it.

We turn out of the school, and onto the roads, we must take up 5 miles of road by the time everyone is out of the school and I learn quickly that I should have started closer to the front as I pass well over 1000 bikes in the first ½ hour, spending way too much time left of center! The first road is mostly rolling with a couple really steep little climbs to warm you

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Minutes



Cateye Totals

The meeting of the Lorain Wheelmen was not really called to order as I remember, but we began talking about everything and anything. It was busy that night at Olde Towne Pizza. Be sure to check with Ralph about the rides for the year.

Louise handed out the Treasurer Reports for the Red Flannel, Year End Report, Quarterly Reports and the 2 months Report. Everyone accepted the reports but no motions were made.


Ralph began talking about the winter rides beginning in Oberlin; I didn't hear any objections from anyone there. He has made up a list of rides for the year. He has starting points between Oberlin and Amherst. He wants to have some starting points like in Vermilion also, so the club can head more West into Huron/Sandusky areas. He is open for any suggestions also.

The banquet was talked about and the following was somewhat nailed down. The date for the banquet will be around the end of April which would be the 24th or the week before. Debbie M. has volunteered to chair the event. Hopefully, someone will tell her about the approved dates and that the number attending would be approximately 30+ people. The cost was mentioned and discussed; the range should be around \$35.00 with everything included. Some places were mentioned, one was the Black River Cafe, the 150 Jefferson was also mentioned but no one jumped on it.

The next meeting is in March, on the 11th, at Lorenzo's in Oberlin.

Member	December	YTD
Maddock, Daniel	0	9,316
Cicerchi, Ron	0	6,056
Ballard, Ralph	422	5,709
Hendrickson, Joel	184	4,917
Hohn, Clyde	225	4,746
Linn, Colleen	0	4,624
Panek, Carl	309	3,677
Trost, Bill	299	3,603
Panek, Carol	266	3,092
Krebs, Dave	57	2,818
Petro, Arthur	50	2,556
Bachman, John W.	0	737
Moennich, Jim	0	471
Moennich, Debbie	0	464
Totals	1,812	52,786

This was your last chance, next month is a clean slate. Make a resolution to turn in your miles monthly for 2010!

WHEELMAN

LORAIN WHEELMEN

TRACKS

President	John Bachman
Vice Pres	Clyde Hohn
Secretary/	
Treasurer	Louise Page
Road Capt.	Ralph Ballard
Editor	Dave Krebs

For ride info, call 440.775.1573

The group trying to bring back the Tour de Georgia has announced that it will cancel the race for 2010 and postpone the return “until at least 2011”.

The Tour de Georgia Foundation, Inc. had secured a place on the 2010 calendar from the UCI, but announced it had not come up with the financing to make the race a reality on Wednesday.

“This was not an easy decision, but one that was best in the current economic climate,” said Tom Saddlemire, board member of the Tour de Georgia Foundation, Inc. “The Board of Directors and our advisors did all we could to tailor a race to fit within the economic realities of today and we are understandably disappointed in this announcement, but we are committed to bringing back the Tour as soon as possible.”

The press release stated that the Foundation “thoroughly examined every potential avenue to bring a race together this year, but despite good fundraising efforts, there simply were not enough sponsorship dollars available to stage a Tour de Georgia in 2010”.

The last edition of the Tour de Georgia took place in 2008, and was won by Team High Road’s Kanstantin Siutsou in a close contest over Trent Lowe of Team Slipstream.

Sponsorship woes led to the cancelation of the 2009 event.

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We all know that this year’s Red Flannel was another success, but here are some facts about the riders that you probably don’t know.

- There were about twice as many guys riding than gals (305 to 133)
- Almost ½ the riders were riding the R/F for the first time (201)
- There were 73 folks that prepaid their registration
- Most folks that rode were buckeyes, but there were 10 from PA, 5 from MI, 1 from OR and 1 from CO
- Closer to home, there were 11 riders from Amherst but only 8 from Oberlin
- Not surprising, 149 riders came from the Cleveland area (441**)
- Web registration is gaining in popularity. There were 117 of 'em while only 91 riders used the registration form from our mailing
- The bulk of our riders are from the 40 to 60 age group (282), but we had 7 under 21 and 2 over 80

BTW, don’t try to add up any of these stats, they don’t add to the 426 riders we tallied from the rider bibs. I must have ‘lost’ 8 in the process. These stats are pretty much the same as in the last few years since I’ve been collecting 'em. It’s really surprising where all the new riders come from. It’s NOT like they’re kids as shown by the age breakdown, but our records go back about 10 years and they just don’t appear on 'em. Cleveland is sure holding it’s own and we sure wouldn’t have a successful R/F without 'em. Lorain County only supplied about 30 riders.

Six gap

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up for what's to come, the first real climb is Neel's gap about 6 miles long, it is a highway so the road is wider with a nice berm, several switchbacks, and some steeper sections that test the legs. I keep a good pace and passed quite a few people, but to be fair, I get passed by riders as well. The climb goes well and I'm feeling good so far. I hit the rest stop at the top to fill my bottles and grab a snack, then down you go on the first of the descents about four miles.

About the rest stops! Well there are 10 of them on the ride and when I first learned that, I thought I might stop at half of them. Boy was I wrong, in the end I stopped at every one, I never got off the bike though, just unclipped one pedal and waited, because the volunteers come out and get you whatever you need, you never had to stop for more than a minute unless you wanted to. The people that manned them were great, always happy, helpful, and encouraging.

Climb #2 is Jack's gap, about 3 miles long. I was worried about this one because back when Gary and I rode it, this is where I bailed out from exhaustion, to my surprise had I gone ¼ mile farther, I would have been over the worst of it, so it turned out not to be as bad as I thought. When I got to the rest stop at the top there were a lot of tired looking riders and they were only at 40 miles, I felt sorry for them.

A nice rolling stretch of very pretty road followed that took us to climb #3 Unicoi gap, a short climb, but steep, that lead to the 3rd longest descent of the day at 6 miles. I don't know why but sensed that I was somewhere near the front as I wasn't seeing many riders ahead now. The bottom of the descent marked the half way point, as well as the approach to the most brutal climb of the day, #4 Hogpen gap!

You make a right turn off the highway that went over Unicoi, and the fun begins. The total climb to get over Hogpen is listed at 7.5 miles but if you look at a profile they don't count two small climbs just before the main one, I guess because they have short descents, but from the turn and onto HWY 348 to the top is 10 miles of pure, nonstop, pain. You must ride this to really know the suffering that takes place here, it is the hardest thing I have ever done and took me a full hour (some riders took 2 ½ hours to get up, mostly walking I figure), and I cussed this beast the whole way up! Some interesting things that took place along the climb: at a rest area half way up that I needed to get water at, I didn't want to stop pedaling, so I just rode around the tent and told them what I needed, the volunteers thought it was hilarious and cheered me on as I rode off; then about 2/3 of the way up I get passed by a girl, who from my guess, was doing around 15mph (I was at maybe 5mph at the time) and all I hear from the rider behind is "JESUS CHRIST!!!", the only thing that keeps you pedaling is knowing walking isn't going to make it better. The top finally comes into view and a welcome sight it is, I remarked to the worker standing by the road that I never want to see this mountain again and he just grins. There are road signs all along here that warn you that the descent is dangerous (a Florida women died here the year before in a crash) so you have no time to enjoy the descent as you are on pins and needles the whole way down. The reason it is so dangerous is the first 2.5 miles is straight down and the road is one of the roughest you see all day, then it makes a sharp right and you start to hit lots of swichbacks. I never go over 40mph, rumor has it that a tandem hit 65mph that day, no thanks.

Stay tuned for the finale next month!

Calendar

February 2010

Date	Start	Destination	Distance	the etc's
02/07	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	25ish	One month has passed!
02/14	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	30	Valentine's Day
02/15	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	25ish	President's Day ride
02/21	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	25ish	Maybe Wellington
02/28	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	25	Short to Wakeman?
03/03	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	30	It's March already!
03/11	Lorenzo's Pizza			Meeting night
03/14	Oberlin Inn	U-Show	25	It's close to Spring

All Sunday and holiday rides start at 9:00 Eastern Standard Time starting

Starting Times & locations

Oberlin:

The Oberlin start is in the Oberlin Inn parking lot located in the rear of the Inn.

Amherst:

The Amherst start is the City parking area 3 located between Tenney & Park Avenues just east of Church Street.

Weeknight evening rides:

Well, they're kaput now. If anything, there might be an informal ride in the afternoon if the weather is OK. Call Ralph & check!

Weekend & Holiday Starting Times:

Sunday & Holiday rides start at 9:00 AM Eastern Standard time 'till spring.

Saturday rides will start at 9:00 AM from Prospect School in Oberlin.

Don't forget to turn in your miles to: miles@lorainwheelmen.org!

RENEW NOW! Use the renewal application on the last page and send in your renewal **NOW!**

Driver Sentenced to 5 Years

Cycling News – Jan 8, 2010

A judge in Los Angeles today sentenced 60-year-old Christopher Thompson to five years in prison for assaulting two cyclists in a 2008 road rage incident.

Thompson was convicted of mayhem, assault with a deadly weapon and other charges stemming from the run-in with the riders on Mandeville Canyon road in Brentwood.

The former emergency room physician admitted on the scene that he slammed on the brakes in front of the cyclists on purpose in order to “teach them a lesson”.

The district attorney was inundated by letters from around the world by cyclists who urged the court to pass down a sentence that would send the message to drivers that they need to share the road with bicyclists.

“It is time that motorists learn that they must share the road with people on bicycles and that the courts will view assaults on cyclists by motorists as seriously as other assaults with deadly weapons,” Deputy District Attorney Mary Hanlon Stone wrote in court papers.

Thompson said in court that he and other fellow residents of the narrow dead-end road were upset that cyclists rode side by side and ran stop signs along the road.

He exchanged words with two riders, Ron Peterson and Christian Stoehr, on July 4, 2008 before passing them and suddenly slamming on his brakes. Peterson went into the car’s rear window and suffered broken teeth, cuts and had to have his nose reattached. Stoehr also hit the car and crashed.

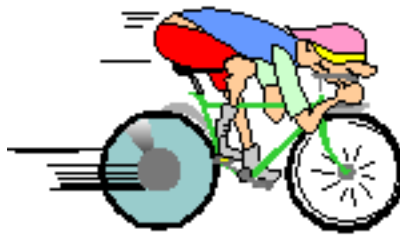
According to reports, Thompson was in tears during the sentencing, and expressed remorse to Peterson and two other cyclists who had previously been harassed by Thompson

Time Trials and You

Your Road Captain

One of the things that the club did many, many years ago was a Time Trial. Since they haven’t been done since I became a member, some fifteen or so years ago and I only know what a few of the elders (John and Dave) have told me about them. As I was building this year’s ride calendar I thought that it would be fun to bring back that old tradition and have a TT for club members. What I am proposing isn’t as daunting as you might think a time trial might be. I have scheduled two Saturday sessions, one in the spring and one in the fall. These would be for personal growth information only. Your only competition is you. I

really don’t care who has the fastest time. I think it is more interesting to see how much growth people show during the course of the ride season.



There is a stretch of Rte 511 just south of Rte 20 starting across from Green Circle Growers that we can ride for five miles without having to stop at an intersection. I figure we do the five miles out to the railroad tracks in Brighton make a turnaround and do the five back. The spring TT gives you a base line. The fall ride gives you an idea of your personal growth compared to your spring ride time. We can meet at the Kipton Park or start from Oberlin and do a few miles warm up before the start. I’ll send people off every two minutes or so and record the times as they finish. Again, this is for measuring personal growth not a competition. I’ve scheduled the first TT for Saturday, April 24th. Of course that’s weather permitting. Hope to see you there. More info will follow as we near the date.

Lorain Wheelmen Membership Form

New Renewal

Name _____ Age _____ Other Family Members _____

Address _____ Age _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ Age _____

Phone () _____ Cell Ph () _____ e-mail _____

Dues (due March 1st) Schedule (1/2 after Oct 1st for **NEW** membership)

Adult/Family \$15.00
(includes CrankMail)

Return To:
Lorain Wheelmen
P.O. Box 102
Amherst OH 44001-0102

Waiver

In signing this release for myself or the named member (when the member is under 18), I understand the intent of this release and agree to absolve all of the sponsors, or organizers and associated entities be they individuals or organizations, singly and collectively of all blame for any injury, misadventure, harm, loss or inconvenience suffered as a result of taking part in any Lorain Wheelmen Bicycle Club ride or in connection with any activity associated with or related to said organization. If the member is 18 or over, he/she signs for self. If not, then the parent or legal guardian must sign below.

Date _____
Signature of member or parent/guardian _____