

The annual 100 MILE century and fractions held Sat Sept 7, 1974, was the most successful to date. There were a total of 108 riders participating, 85 of whom completed the 100 miles. 15 riders completed 50 miles and 9 rode 25 miles for the quarter century patch, which was new this year. The ride started at the Maple Hill Mall in Kalamazoo and went to South Beach in South Haven, returning over the same route. Alamo hill was again included and was mentioned by several riders, not always in kindly terms.

The youngest riders to participate were 4 yr old and 6 yr old Greg and Randy Gabrielse of Grand Rapids who rode the fifty miles to South Haven under their own power. Both boys were given special awards. Awards were also given to the following: females; Nancy Vegler, Clayton, Mo. greatest distance; Joan Schneider, Jackson, oldest; Virginia Davis, Kalamazoo, youngest; miles; Dean Wisleder, Springfield, Ill, greatest distance; Clay Hallett, Jackson, oldest; Bob Klecka, 10, Muskegon, youngest. The Ray Davis family of Kalamazoo was the largest with five riders. John Busack and Wally Kremers turned in the fastest time, completing in five hours, 18 minutes.

Patches for the 25 and 50 miles arrived during the day but the century patches were a week late. We hope that all participants have now received their patches. A special sag wagon patch was ordered for Kathy, who checked riders in at South Beach. Very little use was made of sag wagons, most riders being able to complete the distances they had chosen.

A different route was suggested for next year since we have now had this ride two years in succession. Various possibilities are being considered. If any riders living in the Kalamazoo area have any ideas of a good route that will cover the required 100 miles and is over good roads, please let us know.

We feel that part of the reason for the good turn-out was the low entry fee. Riders who pre-registered paid exactly what it costs us for the patch. The riders who registered that day paid an extra 50¢ which help set off the cost of printing the entry forms, maps, cue sheets and gas for the sag wagon. We just made enough to cover our expenses. Some thought we should have food stops and charge more. The main reason we haven't done so is lack of people to work on the century. (My personal thanks to Virginia Caruso who watched the registration area for me so that I could go have lunch.) We would certainly appreciate any help we can get for future events. There was some grumbling about not having arrows on the roads or signs to mark the route. Again the reason we didn't have them was because we didn't have anyone to do the work. We also had the bad experience last year of people stealing the signs or moving them with the result that some riders got lost. The cue sheet was accurate for anyone who was unfamiliar with the area and those who followed it had no problems with losing their way.

An unexpected bonus of the century was getting five new members for the club, coming events for club members and those living near Kalamazoo:

Sept 21 Sat \*8:00 am meet at Hardings in Oshtemo to ride to Paw Paw for the wine festival. Tour of winery available. John Busack, leader. About 30 miles.

Sept 29, Sun Apple cider century and fractions, Three Oaks, Mich.

Oct 5 Sat Jackson century, Jackson Mich

Oct 5 Sat GNEEP annual tour around Gull Lake. This is a circular route of about 12 miles with riders making as many loops as they wish.

Oct 9 Wed 7:00 pm VFWA next WBC meeting. Hope to have slides of Balboa by Wally Kremers.

Thank you for your participation,