

Report on JohnnyRide 2006, August 26-27, Twin Cities

Day One (August 26)

Riders: Alice Keppel, Chuck Fick, Mike Durand, Marilyn Durand, John Durand, Peter Durand.
(One no-show)

Sag wagon crew (two vehicles): Pat Keppel, Anne Fick

Distance: 30 + miles

Notes: Start time was 9 a.m. The morning was sunny and calm and cool. I have no idea how I so badly over-estimated the distance for this ride, which I thought was about 60 miles. (Perhaps it was because I got so lost in test-riding the route.) Following a leisurely lunch after riding about 25 miles, all riders completed the full route from Minnehaha State Park to Hopkins and back by about 2:30.

Day Two (August 27)

Riders: Chuck Fick, Marilyn Durand, Mike Durand, John Durand, Alice Keppel (part)

Sag wagon crew (three vehicles): Pat Keppel, Anne Fick, Warren & Beth Utecht

Distance: About 58 miles if you didn't get lost, but everyone got lost in the morning. When we all wheeled into the picnic gathering at Minnehaha State Park my bike computer read exactly 60 miles.

Notes: Start time was 9 a.m. The morning was again sunny and cool and calm. By 9:10 a.m. two of the four riders were off-route. By 11 a.m. all riders had gotten off-route for a time. Chuck Fick suffered a blow-out about 20 miles into the ride and was conveyed the rest of the way to Pine Point Park. Alice Keppel tried to join the ride about 10 miles from Pine Point Park but had to give up because of knee and back pain. Warren & Beth Utecht had gone ahead to Pine Point Park with lunch makings and to reserve a valuable picnic table. Mike Durand, the last rider, reached Pine Point Park for lunch about 1:10 p.m. After repairing Chuck Fick's tire, all four riders started back about 1:50, while the Utechts headed back for Minnehaha State Park and the picnic. The four riders stayed together the entire way, looking pretty snazzy in their matching JR 2006 biking shirts. The two sag wagon teams (Pat and Alice Keppel and Anne Fick) leap-frogged checkpoints to within five miles of the end, as the afternoon grew warm and riders were guzzling fluids. All riders reached the picnic about 4:45 p.m.

The Picnic

Nearly two dozen people attended the picnic at the Minnehaha State Park pavilion. Besides the provided pulled pork sandwiches (brought by Jane Nelson), potato salad, and beverages, picnickers also enjoyed contributed baked beans, salads, fruit trays, and of course desserts.

The Raffle

A new JohnnyRide feature this year was a raffle. Tickets were \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 12 for \$10, etc. Winning tickets were pulled at the picnic. The winners were:

Autographed copy of *The Taos Massacres*...Bob Olson, Mill Valley, CA

Autographed copy of *The Odyssey of Mary B*...Bonnie Mackesey, Madison, WI

Autographed copy of *Behind Enemy Lines*...Jan Bredeson, Eden Prairie, MN

Autographed Minnesota Vikings license plate...Jane Nelson, Ellsworth, WI

Handmade afghan by Anna Durand Hall...Audrey Moore, Yorktown, VA

Handmade appliqué wall-hanging by Alice Keppel...Jeanette Cureton, Plymouth, MN

Autographed Green Bay Packers football...Brian Roberts, Madison, WI