

**BICYCLE  
ADVENTURE  
CLUB**



# The Tripper

come ride with us!

## **The Tripper Report for September - December 2008** (updated 6/12/2013)

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**Enchanted Circle - Atomic City & Ancient Pueblos of NM September 3rd to September 14th**

**Ride Director: Gracia Coffin, Report by: Gracia Coffin**



Back Row (standing, left to right): Ray Gonzales, Larry Michels, Alana Michels, Cosima Leedom, Sue Erb, Ali DiNome, Lynn Schneider, Bob Migdal, Ray Paulsen, Ray, Harris, Kathleen Gruetzmacher, Kathy Sterling, Chip Sterling, Chuck Greenley, Stephanie Greenley  
Front Row (seated, left to right): Don Coffin, Charlotte Johnson, Don Gettemy, Gracia Coffin, Richard Johnson, Marcia Brown

Participants: Sue Ann Erb, Raymond Harris, Stephanie Greenley, Chuck Greenley, Richard Johnson, Donald Gettemy, Gracia Coffin, Alexandria Di Nome, Marcia Brown, Raymond Paulsen, Lynn Schneider, Raymond Gonzales, Chip Sterling, Kathy Sterling, Don Coffin, Bob Migdal, Cosima Leedom, Kathleen Gruetzmacher, Larry Michels, Alana Michels

**A Lake Michigan Ramble** September 4th to September 18th  
**Ride Director: Vickie Smith, Report by: Jeanne Bush**



This was a wonderful ride, very well planned and thought out! The point-to-point route covered about 420 miles with about 15,000 feet of climbing. Three rest days allowed riders to add to those totals with suggested loops and maps. Each day's directions included suggestions for food stops and optional loops and sights to see. The route took us through really pretty and varied scenery with views of lakes, forests, and farms, on roads with very little auto traffic and also on dedicated bike paths. It was definitely a 2B ride but somewhat easier than some other "2B's" I've ridden. In addition to the beautiful scenery, most of the towns where we stayed were small and cute with interesting shops and good restaurants. Our accommodations were often small B&B type inns with lots of charm and with wireless internet, best of both worlds.

We all gathered in Mackinaw City adjacent to "Big Mac" the bridge to the UP of Michigan, spent the night and then loaded into a bus with luggage and bikes and were transported south to Ludington, and it was pouring rain! Not a good thing when about to start a 2 week bike ride! But that was the worst rain we had on the trip. The next morning it was just barely sprinkling and even that stopped in the first hour. By the time we got to our destination of Portage Point, the sun was shining. We stayed at an inn with shared condos right on the lake, and some folks even went swimming, very lovely.

The next day we cycled to Frankfort, a very cute little town and old style inn where we spent 2 nights. A couple of options for loop rides were available on the rest day. Our leaders had fresh-baked cherry pies delivered for our happy hour, what a treat!

We continued our generally northerly direction and spent nights in Glen Arbor (charming B&B with some shared bathrooms), Leland (historic harbor area), Northport (I believe this stop will be eliminated in future trips as the accommodations were not satisfactory), and Traverse City where we again spent 2 nights. Traverse City is a real "city" with many stores and restaurants and sits right on the lake. The rest day ride around a lake was enjoyed by all who ventured out that day.

The next day's ride was 50 miles to Bellaire, another tiny town and charming inn. From there we went to Charlevoix (larger, pretty town) and then to Petoskey (lovely old inn right on the lake). We cycled back to Mackinaw City and then took the ferry to Mackinac Island where we stayed 2 nights and ended our trip. We had warm sunny skies on this lovely island where the modes of transportation are bikes and horse-drawn carriages, no autos allowed. We cycled all around and over the island for a whopping 14 miles, beautiful!

Michigan is known for its cherries, so we ate them in pies, chocolate covered, in salads, cookies and ice cream, all very good! Oh, and Michigan is filled with ice cream stores, perfect for cyclists!

I highly recommend this ride to anyone who has the opportunity to take it.

Participants: Nancy Reid, Spencer Ridings, Antoinette Cordell, Clarice Sackett, Jeanne Bush, Vickie Smith, Michael Eunice, Janice Eunice, Beth Caldwell, Wes Johnson, Jan Bush, Beverlee French, Rickey Davis, Jeannette Gilbert, Verne Gilbert, Jean Behse, Bill Thomson, Floyd De Andrade, Susan De Andrade, Jere S Pilver, David Cooley, Ann Hunt, Tom Hunt, Nancy Gates

**North Idaho Trails** September 6th to September 15th  
**Ride Director: Roy Glickman, Report by: Russ Dieter**



North Idaho Trails (section one)

It was a great tour. Spokane is a beautiful city, with a very scenic bike path along the Spokane River, which we experienced on our warm up day, with easy access from our Doubletree Hotel. Hotel staff were very accommodating. We were on bike paths most of the tour (Spokane River Trail, Idaho Centennial Trail, Hiawatha Trail), which made navigation easy, except for getting through towns to the paths.

Roy and Judy, our leaders, picked wonderful hotels, so we were bathed in luxury at the end of each day.

The social hours were exceptional, with Judy's delectable offerings. Our group was very congenial, lots of talk and laughs.

The Idaho panhandle is beautiful and

unpopulated, with a chance to see moose. Kelley saw three, and showed his photos and movie. The Hiawatha Trail lived up to its reputation for beauty, though the tunnels are intimidating.

We had great weather, as did section two, immediately following us. See their trip report for more details of the tour.

Participants: Betty Hoffman, Richard Spinetto, Judy Glickman, Howard Weston, Roy Glickman, Ken Neville, Martha Neville, Judy Dieter, Russ Dieter, Pat Hight, Martha Raak, John Dolansky, Nancy Dolansky, Wilson Cooper, Sue Cooper, Dusty Hamrick, Janet Freeman, Kelley Clark

**Cape Cod and the Islands** September 6th to September 14th

**Ride Director: Ida Nystrom, Report by: Grace Voss**



Just like one of those Whitman's Sampler boxes of chocolates, the 2008 Cape Cod Adventure (Sept. 6&ndash;13), offered something for everyone. Under the capable leadership of Ida and Jim Nystrom and Susan Hardy, 26 bicyclists experienced the Massachusetts highlights of Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Provincetown under mostly blue skies and bright sunshine. Ida, the head cheerleader and history docent, designed the trip for maximum flexibility. As a result, BAC trippers usually had long and short choices on each day's route sheet. For many, the Cape Cod Adventure really began on Day Three, with a high speed ferry crossing to Martha's Vineyard, a short walk to the grand old Wesley Hotel near the harbor, and a short bike ride to Edgartown, a former sea captains' enclave that oozed history with its imposing homes, grand churches and

classic public buildings.

Day Four offered a 50 mile ride, the longest of the tour, to the red cliffs at Aquinnah, with support stops in the form of two local all purpose grocery stores and a novel stop at an outdoor sculpture garden that resembled a nude beach, as well as a fine indoor gallery. Many miles of off road bicycle paths through pitch pine forests made this day of the trip especially enjoyable, although a strong afternoon rainstorm dampened spirits temporarily.

On Day Five, some trippers rode along the ocean on a sparkling day to nearby lighthouses at East Chop and West Chop, passing through picturesque villages. A small graveyard in Vineyard Haven is the resting place for writers Art Buchwald and William Styron. As only one ferry per day runs between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, our next stop, we were told in no uncertain terms by Ida to be at the ferry dock with ample time to spare. (We made it!)

For accommodation splendor and a sense of history, Nantucket was the highlight of the trip. Ida reserved the imposing Jared Coffin House for our stay, home to a former whaling captain. The nearby Whaling Museum is a must see experience, with interesting story tellers relating tales of the Essex, the whaling ship disaster which Herman Melville used as the inspiration for Moby Dick. The short (.3 mile) trek from the ferry to the Jared Coffin House was a bit trickier on Nantucket's cobblestone streets, but the ambience of the home was well received by all.

After an ample breakfast in the gracious living room, most trippers rode a loop trail (also off road) to Siasconset, a longtime art colony, with a shorter ride available to the beach at Madaket. The longer loop offered a stop at the African Meeting House, where Frederick Douglass recruited volunteers for the 54th Regiment in the Civil War.

A morning ferry returned us to Hyannis, where we biked along the seashore to Eastham, stopping at the National Park's Salt Pond Visitor Center. The final morning featured a rail to trail route all the way into Provincetown at the far end of Cape Cod. Provincetown, as it is called, features the wind&ndash;swept dunes and pitch pine forests of the National Seashore, with miles of roller coaster bike trails. The two storied Visitor's Center offers spectacular views on clear days, while the nearby Pilgrim's Tower gives one the opportunity to climb higher into the sky. A historical museum at the base of the tower is well worth seeing, and the very gay ambience of Provincetown, especially in the evenings, is a trip all its own.

The Cape Cod Adventure ended Sept. 14, with most people taking the high&ndash;speed ferry back to Boston, while the Nystroms returned 10 rental bikes to Hyannis. For a first time Bicycle Adventure Club effort, the Cape Cod Adventure was hugely successful.

Participants: Edward Belcher, Diane Pearson, Kate Wilson, Sheila Lieske, Jim Lieske, Moin Khan, Joan Strachota, Bruce Schweitzer, Carlie Geer, Sharon Belcher, Jim Nystrom, Jacque Austin, Stephen Mangold, Roy Lawrence, Ellie Moller, Kathleen Fowler, Tina Neil, Grace Voss, Andy Schwartz, Debbie Schwartz, Natalie Hedberg, Thomas Van Zandt, Adrienne Brandriss, Ida Nystrom, Susan Hardy

**North Idaho Trails (Section 2) September 13th to September 22nd**

**Ride Director: Guy Carrier, Report by: Barbara Hailey**



Autumn weather is beautiful almost everywhere in the U.S., and we were not disappointed! After meeting the group in Spokane, WA (and sharing dinner with the Section 1 riders), we headed out to explore one of the most extensive and best paved bike trail systems we've ever seen in the Northwestern states. We had the opportunity to ride on the Spokane River Centennial, the North Idaho Centennial, and the Coeur D'Alene Lake Centennial trails, as well as the popular Hiawatha Trail. We also veered off the trail system on a couple of days (first and last) which gave us more of a physical challenge.

Day 1, those who did the extension had the distinction of conquering Charles Rd., with a 14% max grade, for about 2 miles, and Day 9

gave us all a challenge, riding counter to the scheduled organized cycle event, "Tour de Lochs," where we saw probably over 300 riders headed in the opposite direction. The roads were in fantastic shape, and after a fairly long ascent, gave those of us who love to descend a big thrill! Hardly had to tap the breaks, and maxed out at about 36 mph on one of the best long straight descents I've seen in 5 years of road biking (and otherwise, tens of thousands of miles ridden in the state of California). We did have a couple of days when we encountered high-speed traffic on narrow roads, but this didn't dissuade us.

Staying in a variety of hotels, ranging from the world-renowned Coeur D'Alene Resort Hotel to the small Lakeview Lodge in Harrison, ID, we always had good food nearby. Water was a little harder to come by during the days, as the local water taps were minimal to non-existent and might have proven to be less palatable (or even questionable), so wearing a hydration pack for those doing longer distances was a wise choice.

Our trip was made extremely convenient with the able assistance of our great logistics van driver who not only carried our luggage from hotel to hotel, but also provided mountain bikes for many of us for use on the Hiawatha Trail. Temps for the trip were in the 80's, except for the last day, which was in the 40's and rainy. Loren Dudley, our van driver from Silver Bike Tours, was a hardy soul who made it easy on us by toting all our bikes back to Spokane, while the rest of us took a free city bus back from the Indian Casino Hotel.

Highlights for us on this trip were: staying at the Coeur D'Alene Resort and opting for a seaplane ride to show us the geography of the area; happening upon a classic wooden boat fleet extravaganza on the Coeur D'Alene Lake as we ferried from north to south; riding the Hiawatha Trail on mountain bikes in the Bitterroot Mountains from East Portal (elev. 4147') to Falcon (near 400'), burrowing into the 1.7 mile pitch-black St. Paul "Taft" railway tunnel, riding over seven high steel trestle bridges, and learning about the silver mining history of the area; having our first taste of huckleberry ice cream at the Snake Pit Bar along the trail and a huckleberry milkshake at the "Red Light Garage" in Wallace; and witnessing some of the best maintained bike trails we've ever seen. And, yes, two bald eagles and various skittish trailside chipmunks! We looked for moose, but couldn't find any!

This was our first BAC trip, and thanks to a great bunch of people and an able ride leader, we had a wonderful time. This would be a good trip for people who don't like to get lost and like a nice easy to moderate ride with beautiful scenery and many photo ops.

Stats: 374 miles in 8 days; actual ride time, approximately 29 hours.

Participants: Jerry Boutelle, Jeanne Boutelle, Guy Carrier, Leona L Muller, Barbara Hailey, John Hailey, Sally Mc Kinney, Maia Fajerman, Frank Dega, Michelle Dega, Larry Anderson, Janet Anderson, Don Secrist, Cam Secrist, Jeffrey Colehour, Beth Colehour, Ann Bauermeister

## Walla Walla Wheat and Wine September 21st to September 27th

Ride Director: Sheila Coe, Report by: Nancy Kirk



Seventeen of us joined in on a fabulous week of riding, drinking, eating and friendship. The tour started with the first of our social hour meetings and a welcoming dinner. Sheila and Dean Coe were our expert and gracious tour guides.

Our accommodations for the week were at the well appointed Marcus Whitman Hotel in downtown. Main Street is great for exploring art, history, shopping, eating and of course wine drinking.

Monday we set out on our first ride and were greeted with rainy skies and 40 mph Wind! We made our way to the Marcus Whitman Mission to partake in the local history. We bucked the wind and completed the longer 32 mile option.

That afternoon we toured the Center for Enology and Viticulture, an extension of the Community College. Our hosts explained the 2 year accredited program and with wine glass in hand we toured the facility and learned the basic process of wine making.

Tuesday no wind only sunshine. This weather held for the remainder of our trip. Today's Mill Creek 36 mile ride was spectacular. We followed the creek as the landscape changed from wheat fields to vineyards to evergreens. The gradual climb out with one long hill awarded us with a rolling downhill all the way home.

That afternoon we toured the Walla Walla Vinters with host Myles Anderson. He walked us through the crush process and educated our palates by tasting fresh, year old and fully aged wine from the same grapevines.

Wednesday we left Walla Walla for an overnight stay in historic Dayton at the Victorian Weinhard Hotel. Our 32 mile ride rolled us through the never ending wheat fields. We stopped in Waitsburg for big, yummy warm cinnamon rolls. Full, we rode down the peaceful country roads to our next adventure at the Monteliet Fromagerie. We sampled several goat cheeses and tasted wine to compliment the flavors. Owners Joan and Pierre shared information about their farm, raising goats and living in a small town.

Sheila and Dean set up a fabulous social hour on the rooftop garden of the Weinhard. Craig and Jill Noble joined us from the Couvillion Winery and gave us an insight into wheat farming and the economics of a small winery. Dinner was at the Patit Creek a four star restaurant that proved up to its rating.

Thursday we rode 37 miles back to Walla Walla first stopping at the Lewis and Clark encampment just north of Dayton. The roads were long rolling hills meandering through wheat farms and hay stacks. There was little traffic and lots of open space. That afternoon most made a trip to the foundry which is world renowned for casting contemporary fine art sculptures.

Friday we headed south to Milton-Freewater, OR. Sheila and Dean provided various mileage options from 28 to 58 miles. It was a beautiful ride through the wheat fields and vineyards with long big sky vistas. Milton-Freewater was a funky little town filled with wooden carved frog statues located outside many businesses. After an authentic Hispanic lunch at Jalisco taco stand we rolled back into town.

On our last night together we shared photos, experiences and lots of laughs during the social hour. Sheila and Dean had reservations for us at the Creek Town Cafe which proved to be excellent way to end our tour.

The total tour experience was fabulous. Sheila and Dean paid attention to every detail from the almost perfect cue sheets to the wonderful and educational appointments along the way. The combination of riding, scenery, local flair, education, food, wine and most of all the people made this a very special and enjoyable trip.

Participants: Laurie Abbott, Dick Otto, Dean Coe, Sheila Coe, Phyllis McCarthy, Daniel Smerchak, Kathe Fowler, Greg Fowler, Paul Maull, Jane Volta, Don Volta, Charles Abbott, Tara Maull, Nancy Kirk, Michael Kirk, John Stephenson, Elizabeth Buckingham

**Wisconsin Hills** October 5th to October 10th

**Ride Director: James Abel, Report by: Gail Preston**



This fixed based 2B ride was ideal. It was charming, challenging, and scenic. The scenery was breathtaking with lots of rolling hills and some great downhills. There were also routes for flatter easier riding along with even more challenging climbing and longer miles. We had 5 days to ride and 15 route options. Included in the information packet was a routes summary with all the routes listed by easier, moderate, and harder, including the mileage and feet climbing for each. The cue sheets were accurate and easy to follow. The hardwood trees were about 25% into their fall finery and no traffic to interfere. There were days when we only saw 5 or 6 cars on a 45 mile route; the road surfaces were smooth with few pot holes.

The lodge was very nice with all the accouterments needed, including a hot tub,

two indoor swimming pools, a workout room, and a sauna. The Spa offered massages, facials and manicures. The adjoining golf course would make a nice alternative to those who wanted a day off the bike. And, of course, they have the all important bar. The rooms were two room suites complete with microwave, refrigerator and coffee pot.. Glasses and coffee cups were furnished and the other necessary items were available in paper and plastic at the local grocery store. The food at the lodge restaurant was acceptable but a bit costly. The lodge pub offered good pub food and beverages. Breakfast was not included in the price of the room and only a buffet breakfast was available.

A car is necessary to get to other food sources. Dinner places were limited as usual in a small town. The closing dinner was held at The Bank in Spring Green which presented a special menu for Bicycle Adventure Club. It was very good. The wine list was extensive including some great California and Australian wines along with a long list of the finest Wisconsin ales and beers.

Jim Abel and Deb Jansen did an outstanding job of hosting the ride. The preplanning was obvious as all went well including the best ever happy hours. Fresh melon from Lois Fleming's garden was a welcome addition. And, of course, being Wisconsin exceptional cheeses were always available.

This ride location is ideal for those with non-riding spouses and significant others as there are many activities: visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's "Taliesin," the House on The Rock, and Mineral Point, a quaint European type town with lots of shops in which to browse (just 26 miles away), antique shops and flea markets just to name a few.

Bike shops were available in Mazomanie (16 miles) and Madison (35 miles).

For many, on a scale of 1-10, our Wisconsin Hills tour was a 12!

Participants: Joan Strachota, Bud Preston, Deborah Jansen, James Abel, Virgil Jansen, Anne Brown, Rick Brown, Gail Preston, Kathy Emmons, John S Freitag, Vicki Zenoff, Graham Fleming, Lois Fleming, Vickie Smith, Patrice Van Vleet, Glenn Guenterberg, Carole Nacon, Lynn Whitney, Dorothy Stock, Mary Whitney



**Texas Whooping Crane Whoopie, Fall 2008** November 2nd to November 16th

**Ride Director: Bill Corsbie, Report by: Sara Blakeslee**



I like to ride my bike ...was the theme song of Billy Lance Corsbie's November ride through the Southern Texas countryside from Austin to the Gulf of Mexico and back. There are many excellent reasons that "I like to ride my bike" in Texas. The weather in November, for example. There we were on November days cycling in short sleeves through warm sunshine under clear blue skies while our BAC brethren were either shivering cold or dripping wet up North. After our ride each day, we could swim and sunbathe at the hotel pool enjoying a full extra hour of daylight. Another reason "I like to ride my bike" in Texas is the varied terrain. Our tour was designed to take us from the rolling hills around Austin, flowing down to the flatlands and on out to the Gulf Coast. The goal of our ride was to see the endangered Whooping Cranes in Aransas Bay. These magnificent

birds symbolize the struggle of the vanishing creatures of this world. We achieved our goal plus we saw many other fantastic birds such as the Peregrine Falcon and the Roseate Spoonbills.

The constant and ever changing wind of the coastal plain sometimes helped and sometimes hindered us as we zigged zagged our way across the countryside visiting and staying in small, rural Texan towns with names like, Beeville, Cotton Patch, Goliad and Cheapside. A unique aspect of this tour is the famous Painted Churches we enjoyed visiting throughout the countryside. The beauty and history of these churches added a depth and richness to our appreciation of Southern Texas. The local people we met, the food we ate, and the history we learned were all pure Texas. A new cultural experience right here in the USA!

To top it all off we had a fabulous group of BACers who shared their support and companionship at the lively Happy Hours. Of particular note are the BAC tour members from Texas, Marcia Tompkins and Jon Beall, who made that legendary Texan hospitality a reality. Plus our musically gifted ride leader, BillyLance, played his guitar and fiddle and sang for us. Does it get any better?

I like to ride my bike  
In the Texas sun light  
Eating BBQ  
And singing with you  
Austin hills and coastal flats  
Don't get better than that!  
Y'all got bikes so let's ride together!  
Ooh yeah!

Participants: Henry Zentgraf, Karen Zentgraf, Sara Blakeslee, Sally Mc Kinney, Wes Johnson, John Blakeslee, Vickie Smith, Jon Beall, Frank Lamitola, Dorothy Stock, Fred Reeb, Barbara Klaus, Marcia Tompkins, Howard Weston, Betty Kriss, Bill Corsbie, Alma Worthington, Beverlee French, Martha Wise, Ernest Manewal

**Tuscany on the Mediterranean** September 3rd to September 13th

**Ride Director: George Hall, Report by: Sandra Vaurs**



This trip was top notch, a real deal and a steal! Not only was it a bargain, but its organization precluded the usual packing up each day for a trip to the next hotel. We stayed at the same hotel for the entire trip. If you didn't want to ride and instead wished to do some sightseeing of Florence, the Cincue Terre towns and trails, or Elba, it was entirely possible to do so. Also, after riding a few days and becoming familiar with the surrounding country side and towns, one could devise their own daily itineraries, if desired, to deviate from the planned ride route.

The leaders, George Hall and Syd Smoot, are both very familiar with the roads, nearby towns and accessible tourist sites and gave of their knowledge freely. They also know how to provide a memorable trip at the lowest cost. Trip leaders, please

ask them how they do it. Their financial accumen paid off handsomely. At the beginning and end of the trip, we were picked up and returned to the Pisa airport in a chartered bus which was most appreciated. This was the best trip, for me, yet.

Breakfast and dinners were supplied by the hotel and the food was outstanding. Lunch was on you on the road at one of the surrounding small towns you would be passing through on your ride. Since the hotel in Donoratico is at sea level, our loop rides were generally uphill the first half and downhill back to the hotel. That is not to say there weren't some downhills in the outgoing section or uphills returning, but the hills weren't too intimidating anyway. The hotel has a wonderful large swimming pool, large grounds and provided free laundry of our cycling clothes daily. Internet access was installed while we were there. The hotel amenities included a friendly german shepard dog, Axel, who was a welcome sight at the end of the day. The local motorists were very accomodating of cyclists. There is a friendly, well stocked bike shop in town for repairs or restocking.

Tuscany is beautiful in September and warm and humid.

Participants: Carol Haraway, Leslie Train, Charles Haraway, Barbara Underwood, Syd Smoot, George Hall, Charles Elioseff, Carolyn Lettieri, Sonia Sandomer, Debbie LA'O, Sandra Vaurs, Janet Noble, Robert Yee, Joanne Olsen, Gregory Olsen, Brian Schwartz, Petra Schwartz, David Patria, Penelope TerHaar, George Chester, Paul Greene, Dorlene Root, George Root, Raymond Foss, Raymond Foss, Cynthia Bonczkiewicz

**Fall In Provence** September 23rd to October 5th

**Ride Director: Liz Siaba, Report by: Carole Milligan**



Gathering in Avignon at our base for two nights in late September, we put bicycles together and prepared to ride. We travelled over smooth roads, through pink towns and villages that grew out of the ground as naturally as the crops, and perched high on hilltops away from the marauding armies of yester-year. We saw field after field of lavender, vineyards, and olive groves. There are some classic places to visit for their history and beauty such as Avignon, Arles, and Aix. The first highlight was the Pont du Gard, the tallest bridge the Romans ever built, and part of a 50km long aqueduct constructed in 20BC that the Romans used to carry water across the Gard Valley so that the retired soldiers, living in Nimes, could have fountains and gardens that resembled those in Rome. We traversed Les Alpilles, a prominent range of hills near the coast, visiting the interesting

town of Les Baux and making a side trip to the Cathedral des Image, a limestone cave sound and light show currently featuring images of Van Gogh's paintings projected onto the walls and accompanied by classical music. We also traversed the lowland landscape of the Camargue and then headed north into the hill towns of Aix, Gordes, and Vaison.

Except for a single night in St. Remy de Provence, the ride was organized so that we spent two nights in each town, including, Avignon, Arles, Aix, Gordes, and Vaissou de la Romaine, allowing for a loop ride on one day followed by a point-to-point ride the second. From short and flat through longer and hillier, the rides gradually became more challenging, culminating in the optional loop trip up Mt. Ventoux. The majority of the routes had modest traffic. The longest ride was just over 60 miles and other than Mt. Ventoux, the climbing was moderate, and quite appropriate for a 2B rating overall. Often there were ways to adjust the route for longer or shorter options and the routes were well designed to give us a view of interesting areas and towns with enough time to get off our bikes and visit castles, viewpoints, or other points of interest. The route maps were thorough and the cue sheets were generally good except for a couple of areas where mileages were incorrect or turns were not marked. The optional Mt. Ventoux ride includes 20 km of unrelenting uphill with some 12-14% grades, stiff crosswinds, and near freezing temperatures at the top.

Hotels had been thoughtfully chosen. Most were nationally ranked 3 star, selected for unique ambiance or for convenient location for our day off explorations of the city. Hotels ranged from smaller chain hotels with great service and location to old inns, with wonderful ambiance, but less convenient luggage access. French food is renowned, and this trip made every effort to make sure that we had good breakfasts at our hotel, and that group dinners provided an interesting range of venues and menus. Happy hours were planned slightly more than half of the nights, partly because of the perception that BAC riders wanted fewer group activities and partly because some hotels weren't set up to provide the service, but there was interest in a bit more social time particularly at the beginning of the trip when we were still getting to know one another.

Prior to the ride, excellent information was sent on packing suggestions, logistics and the routes. All the communications were clear and valuable for trip planning. During the trip, the leadership was very efficient and made for a smooth running trip.

Participants: Mary Loomis, Jo Ann Krause, Dion Shea, Jim Wilson, Liz Siaba, Ida Nystrom, Jim Nystrom, Carol Sirott, Alinda Barth, Carolyn Roth, Richard Pellerin, Dick Bellman, Jacqueline Lawson, Karl Glackmeyer, Lucette Glackmeyer, Tom Robertson, Robert Farina, David Kamp, Phaik-foon Kamp, Margie Berger, John Gradwell, Joan Roe, Larry Roe, Carole Milligan, Jack Dysart