

The Long Rangers

Mile for Mile
Club Members Go
the Distance!

An astounding 98 club members completed at least 500 miles of sanctioned riding this year, earning caps with the Cherry Capital Cycling Club logo.

Topping the list was **Ann Huber**, who outdistanced everyone with 9,323 miles, leading 56 club rides through the season. Ann participated in 198 rides this year. Her partner, **Bud Huber**, was second on the list, racking up 8,354 miles and leading 29 rides.

Rounding out the "top ten" were:

Jay Warren - 5,479 miles

David Drake - 5,271 miles

Linda Shomin - 5,021 miles

Darcie Pickren - 4,217 miles

David Orr - 4,207 miles

Joane Mitchell - 3,646 miles

Michaline Kilts - 3,580 miles

Jerry Scott - 3,552 miles

Ten club members rode more than 3,000 miles over the season, with 11 riding more than 2,000 miles and 31 riding more than 1,000.



Between them, Bud and Ann Huber logged 17,677 miles in the saddle over the past cycling season.



And away they go: if you didn't hit your mileage goal this summer, relax, there's always next year.

President's Message

Dear Members:

September 30th marked the end of mileage tracking for the 2017 cycling season. Riders enjoyed many extra warm sunny days this month which welcomed the chance to rack up more miles toward a Cherry Capital Cycling Club cap.

A member who rides a distance of 500 miles earns a highly coveted cap. Those who ride a distance of over 1,500 miles earn a cap with their name and exact number of miles printed on it. It is an incentive for those who like to ride and achieve personal goals and/or have a friendly competition with your fellow cyclists.



Congratulations to high mileage riders **Bud** and **Ann Huber**, who rode thousands of miles again this year! Whether or not you want to ride thousands of miles or just a few miles you will still find rides on the Club Calendar through the fall. Check it out and get on your bike. Remember to be courteous and obey the rules of the road. When you are riding with the Cherry Capital Cycling Club you are representing us. We

want motorists to know we care about cycling etiquette and we care about them getting to their destination safely as well.

The "End of Summer Pancake Breakfast" on October 1 hosted by Yvonne Cunkle was a huge hit for riders who enjoy the trails at the VASA Singletrack. Thank you Yvonne for your terrific delicious meal of pumpkin & blueberry pancakes and the best bacon in the land, along with scrambled eggs, juice and coffee.

Don't forget the **Volunteer Dinner** at Taproot Cider House, Sunday, October 8, at 5:00 p.m. and the **Annual Meeting and Dinner** (potluck) at The Corner Loft, Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 p.m. It's been a fun and exciting riding season.

Keep on riding safely,
- Darcie C. Pickren, President

cycle briefs

DON'T FORGET TO RSVP: Club Social Director **Carrie Baic** notes that it's important to let her know if you're planning to attend the annual Volunteer Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 8 at the Taproot Cider House at Park St. and Front in downtown Traverse City. You can contact her at ph. 231.938.9315 or email: carriebaic@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.

COPS GET UP TO SPEED on cycling: The League of Michigan Bicyclists has relaunched a training program for police officers and bicyclists which covers such topics as rules for the road, how to investigate and report on a bicycle crash, and safe riding practices. Officers gathered in Traverse City on Sept. 22 to complete training.

TAKIN' A BREAK: Look for the Cycle Club newsletter to go bi-monthly over the winter months, with a focus on profiling some notable club members. If you have a moment, please let Communications Director **Bob Downes** know what your winter cycling plans are. Are you heading south to cycle in Florida or Arizona? Or overseas, perhaps, to Croatia or Tuscany? Inquiring minds want to know. Send your winter itinerary and photos to: bob@planetbackpacker.net



Racer **Jon Delboy** had a super summer on the mountain bike circuit, taking 1st place in the Addison Oaks Fall Classic, Sport Class 19-29 and 1st place at the Short's Glacial hills XC race. He was 1st overall for *all* sport class riders, and lookin' good in his club jersey too!



A Tour de Force!



Blessed with sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-80s, this year's Leelanau Harvest Tour was a resounding success with 567 riders on a roll.

Ridership was up more than 54 percent this year, compared to the 367 who participated in 2016. In addition to the weather, pushing the tour back to its Saturday slot may have helped boost attendance by riders from downstate.

"I think everything worked out fine," said LHT Director Dan Wittkopp. "My biggest concern was safety. Putting that many people out on the road without any major problems was a big relief to me."

First-time tour director Dan Wittkopp was thrilled with the turnout. Downes photos.



Maud Gervais served up a delicious cuppa' soup.



Age was just a number for Pat Noland.



Earl Gervais played host at the third volunteer stop for rider Brian Lea.

Eastern Odyssey

860 Miles to Maine

There's no better way to see the country than at the helm of a bicycle and for veteran cycle tourer Bill Danly, that meant a late-summer cruise to New England with his friend, Doug Wood.

Starting in Fort Erie, Ontario, the two rode north to Niagara Falls and then along the Erie Canal Trail before heading up into the Adirondack Mountains. They finished up their 860-mile trip in Bar Harbor, Maine, after wandering through Vermont and New Hampshire.

"We were 18 days on the road with good weather all the way," says Danly. "If anything, it got too hot and I mailed home some things when we started going uphill."

He says that hills along the route could be very tough, particularly in Vermont, where they tend to be short but steep. With a bike/gear combination that weighed 70 lbs., the duo took on the Middlebury Gap with 1,600 feet of elevation and a 12-mile, 2,000-foot climb up the White Mountains at the Kancamagus Pass, followed by a 22-mile descent to New Hampshire.

The duo averaged 48 miles per day, following the Northern Tier Route of the Adventure Cycling Association. This was their second outing as tour mates: two years ago they did a 1,500-mile ride from Wilmington, North Carolina to Brunswick, Maine.

Danly currently serves as the club's Membership Director and will be considered for President at the annual meeting later this month.

He says the route was quite rural through the woodlands of the Adirondacks, while the Erie Canal Trail was a winding affair going back and forth on a crushed limestone pathway.

What about lodgings? "We camped out a couple of times and had two farm stays, but we stayed in motels for two-thirds of the trip, which was a comfortable way to end the day."



Doug Wood and Bill Danly were happy to make it to Vermont after crossing Lake Champlain on a cable ferry.

Below, the hills tended to be short, but steep. At right, some of that famous New England charm.





It's an Honor

The tiny village of Honor is Benzie County's liveliest setting each Monday throughout the summer with the arrival of two or three dozen cyclists ready to take on the quiet roads, hills and lakeshore settings of Michigan's smallest county.

"We tend to get a wide variety of riders with all different levels of fitness and ability so we always have a base ride and then provide a short-cut if anyone wants to cut off some distance," says ride leader Mark Esper. "We usually have a longer ride, too, for those who want to go further."

Esper is Ride Director for the club and is intimately familiar with Benzie County. He's been vacationing in the area since the age of 14 and has owned a cottage on Big Platte Lake since 2005. "I also just ride the area a lot," he says.

He tends to share leadership of the Honor Ride with Jerry and Mikke Kilts.

"Jerry is the strongest rider of us, so he's



**Ride Director
Mark Esper**

out front with me in the middle and Mikke keeping an eye on the rear. Jerry is also a very skilled mechanic and though we don't have a lot of breakdowns, he's always

there to help out when there's a problem with someone's bike."

This is the fourth year for the Honor Ride, which got its start in 2014. The rides are structured so there's always a coffee break at some point in communities such as Frankfort, Lake Ann and Empire. Typically, cyclists ride about 40-50 miles.

"Despite the fact that this ride is way out in Benzie County we typically get 25 to 35 riders each week, so it's clear that people really enjoy coming out for this ride and



it's quite a social event."

He adds that the Honor Ride will carry on through the month of October and has been known to go into November if the weather stays nice. "But when the starting time temperatures are in the 30s, we tend to do something else."

Currently, the ride time has been pushed back an hour to 10 a.m. If you'd like to give it a go, meet at the park on the west side of town on Monday morning.



Jim Mitchell leads a group down Deadstream Road.