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# BRAG 'N Writes

## Bicycle Ride Across Georgia

February 2009

[www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org)



### BREAKING NEWS! GEORGIA BIKEFEST MOVES TO TIFTON

The Georgia BikeFest is moving to Tifton, GA, in the fall. Tifton is "The Friendly City." The dates are **October 9 - 11, 2009**. The site is the D. L. Lastinger Recreation Area near downtown Tifton. The city of Tifton is looking forward to our visit and has big plans to welcome you and make you feel right at home.



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### NEW FOR 2009 - THE BRAG CENTURION CLUB



BRAG offers 3 fully-supported Century Rides each year. Each ride features an all-cotton bandanna to the finishers. For 2009, we are adding the BRAG Centurion Club Hat to those riders who complete three consecutive BRAG century rides. You will wear your BRAG Centurion Club Hat with pride all next year. So plan now to ride the Saturday, **April 18th**, Spring Tune-Up Eagle's Tavern Century Ride, a new loop ride to Watkinsville and Social Circle, leaving from and returning to Madison. The BRAG 2009 Century Ride will be on Wednesday, **June 10**, leaving from and returning to Clarke Middle School in Athens. Then plan to ride the Georgia BikeFest Century Ride, Saturday, **October 10**, 2009, a flat loop ride starting and ending in Tifton, GA. And don't forget our other major annual event, the SummerRide at Dalton State College in Dalton, GA, **August 8 - 9, 2009**. We don't plan to have a Century Ride in Dalton due to the heat, but we will have an indoor, air-conditioned swimming pool available instead.

### SPRING TUNE-UP T-SHIRT CONTEST



Visit [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org) and vote for your favorite Spring Tune-Up t-shirt design. The deadline to vote is March 15. The winner will be announced at our Spring Tune-Up Ride, April 17 -19, 2009, in Madison, GA.

### BRAG 2009 - HIWASSEE TO CLARKS HILL LAKE

Please note that the week-long parking will be at Elijah Clark State Park and the End of the Road Party and Meal will be at Savannah Lakes Resort & Marina, just across the bridge in South Carolina.

The route is hilly this year, so begin your training now so you can join 1,600 other cyclists on the week-long BRAG ride. The overnight towns and host schools are gearing up to make this one of the most memorable BRAG rides

wayne's bu ride

Hungary Wine & Bike Tour

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ever. Mark the dates, **June 6 - 13, 2009**, to attend the 30th Annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia.

For those cyclists who prefer to motel, the list is now posted at [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org).

To be a part of this 30th Annual Ride, register early so you can get a bus seat before they fill up, you get the Confirmation Letter in time to prepare for the ride and order meals, you get psyched up about the ride, and you help us plan. Download the registration form at <http://www.brag.org/brag.html> and mail it in with your check, or register through [Active.com](http://Active.com).

During our overnight stay at Habersham Central High School in Mt. Airy, GA, Atlanta Panorama will be taking a panoramic photo of all the BRAG 2009 cyclists. The picture will be taken at 3:00 pm. If possible, wear a white or light colored t-shirt for the photo. The BRAG 2009 t-shirt will be perfect. The photo will be printed on 100-year archival Kodak color endura photographic paper. Atlanta Panorama accepts all major credit cards. You may order a photo on-site that afternoon.



BRAG 2009 will be having a new kind of FUN this year! On Sunday, June 7, at 4:00 pm, a few brave BRAG volunteers will be demonstrating our new FUN activities such as: Tug-of-War, Tire Toss, Chunk-a-Clunk, Water Bottle Relay and Bike Limbo.

The contests will begin on Monday at 4:00 and every day thereafter. Come prepared to get down, dirty, or wet!

That's the **FUN** part. Now here's the **Raiser** part:

**\$1 each time to participate and ALL collected money will be donated to Special Olympics, GA!** You can participate as many times as you want. Each contest will award prizes to three winners (or one team) each day who have donated money to SOGA. (Tug-of-War and Water Bottle Relay are team activities.)

Stay tuned to the website for the "FUN Raiser" section with detailed instructions and possible videos!

Saul Raisin, a professional cyclist who suffered a serious cycling accident, will be our guest speaker at Habersham Central High School on Monday, June 8, 2009, during BRAG 2009. Saul has written a book, *Tour de Life: From Coma to Competition*, along with Dave Shields, about the trials and tribulations after his cycling accident. Saul will have his book available for sale after his talk and has agreed to sign copies.



Fawn Germer, best selling author of *Hard Won Wisdom*, will be BRAG's guest speaker at Clarke Middle School on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. No other author has interviewed so many of the most powerful women in American business. She has the code to the corporate playbook. Fawn has keynoted for Coca-Cola, Ford Motor Co., Motorola, Boeing, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline and even the CIA.

Visit [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org) for all the latest ride details. Also take a moment and check out BRAG's press release at <http://www.prlg.org/10178620-announcing-the-230-week-long-vacation.html>

#### ADDITIONS TO YOUR BRAG 2009 REGISTRATION

If you would like to add an item (buses, jersey, t-shirts, etc.) to your current BRAG 2009 registration, please download a registration form at <http://www.brag.org/brag.html>. Simply write your name, address, and the word "**PRE-REGISTERED**" on the form. Check the items you would like to add, enclose a check, and mail to BRAG, P.O. Box 871111, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

#### TEAM BRAG CIVIL WAR TOUR

Plans are in the works to explore The Atlanta Campaign by bicycle, from Chattanooga to Kennesaw, **March 27 - 29, 2009**. A Civil War historian, Dr. Terry Christie, will be along to explain the battles and strategies. This will be a 3-day, 2-night hotel tour of about 60 miles per day. If you are interested, contact Jerry Colley at [jerry@brag.org](mailto:jerry@brag.org).



### SPRING TUNE-UP RIDE 2009

The dates for the Spring Tune-Up Ride in Madison, GA, are **April 17 - 19, 2009**. New routes are being developed. Make plans to join 800 other cyclists to get the cobwebs out of your legs from winter and begin training for the week-long BRAG ride in June. There will be various mileage options with a Century Ride on Saturday. You may download a registration form at <http://brag.org/stu.html> or register through [Active.com](http://Active.com).



### JERRY COLLEY ROAST



Sign up now for the Medicare Birthday Roast of longtime BRAG Ride Director and current CEO, Jerry Colley. The date is **May 16, 2009**, at the Stone Mountain Inn in Stone Mountain Park. There will be a cash bar beginning at 6 pm, with dinner at 7, and the roast starting around 7:45 pm. There will be an optional 40-mile bicycle ride along the PATH to downtown Atlanta and back at 1 pm in the afternoon preceding the roast, with a shower available after your ride. Start saving up your zingers and one liners now and join in the fun. Federal Judge Rodney May from Tampa, FL will be the MC. Log onto [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org) for all the details and the registration form. This roast is a fund raiser for the BRAG 2009 Dream Team.

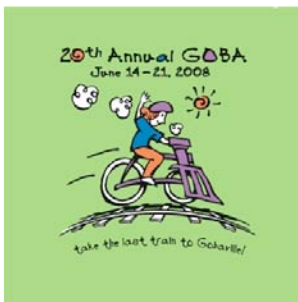
Can't attend? You can still support the BRAG 2009 Dream Team. Send your tax deductible contribution to BRAG Dream Team, P.O. Box 871111, Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

### BRAG 2009 SummerRide

BRAG's SummerRide is moving to Dalton State College in Dalton GA. The dates are **Saturday, August 8 - Sunday, August 9, 2009**. Rides will be 50 to 60 miles per day, with shorter options. **The indoor, air-conditioned swimming pool will be available after your ride each afternoon.** Dalton has many nice restaurants and hotels near the college, or you can tent camp on campus, or roll out your sleeping bag in the air-conditioned gym. Mark your calendar now. Detail routes are being developed. Ride applications will be available as we get closer to the event.



### TEAM BRAG TO GOBA



Team BRAG is planning a trip to GOBA, The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure. The dates are **Friday, June 19, through Sunday, June 28, 2009**. If you are interested, contact Jerry Colley at [jerry@brag.org](mailto:jerry@brag.org). More details to follow at a later date.

### TEAM BRAG TO RAGBRAI

Team BRAG is going to RAGBRAI again in July, 2009. The dates are **Friday, July 17, through Sunday, July 26, 2009**. If you are interested, contact Jerry Colley at [jerry@brag.org](mailto:jerry@brag.org). More details to follow at a later date.



### TEAM BRAG RETURNS TO MEXICO

After an absence of a few years, Team BRAG is returning to Mexico. Our good amigo, Kenneth Johnson, has designed a custom tour in Oaxaca (Wa Ha Ka)



State, Mexico, just for BRAG riders. Come join Jerry Colley in discovering the ancient, pre-Spanish cultures of the Zapotec and Mixtec Indians. Visit breathtaking Monte Alban archeological site, beautiful Santo Domingo Church in Oaxaca City, the huge Tule Tree, and the petrified waterfalls of Hierve el Agua. Enjoy Oaxaca City during one of Mexico's most colorful holidays, Dia de los Muertos. Stop at the one of the distilleries and sample the locally-produced mescal tequila. The dates are **October 25 - November 2, 2009**. Contact Jerry Colley at [jerry@brag.org](mailto:jerry@brag.org) for all the details. Jerry's pictures from his scouting trip in September are at <http://www.pixagogo.com/3896224108>



#### SILK SHEETS RIDE BY SBL



Come join the Southern Bicycle League for their Silk Sheets Ride, **Sunday, March 1, 2009, at 10:30 am**. 60 or 30 mile loop through rolling South Fulton County. After the ride, we will dine at the BBQ Kitchen! For more information, visit [MapMyRide](#), email Robert or Sydney Weaver at [Rob@prismincorporated.com](mailto:Rob@prismincorporated.com), or call 404-434-2199 or 770-851-7727.

#### GEORGIA RIDES TO THE CAPITOL 2009

The Georgia Rides To The Capitol ride will be **Tuesday, March 3, 2009**. Come ride with fellow cyclists and show your support for cycling in Georgia. Various mayors from metro Atlanta will be joining the crowd. Visit [www.georgiaridestothe-capitol.org](http://www.georgiaridestothe-capitol.org) for registration information.



#### 2009 ST. PATRICK'S CENTURY RIDE



Mark your calendars for the 27th Annual Dublin, GA Rotary Club St. Patrick's Century Ride **Sunday, March 22, 2009**. The ride features a new century bike route with no shake and bake roads. This is an official training ride for BRAG. Various mileage options of 25, 50, and 100 miles. For more information visit <http://www.dublinrotary.com/century06.html>.

#### 2009 BIKE FLORIDA "CAPITOL TOUR"

Come ride through some of the most beautiful Florida scenery you may ever see on the 16th Annual Bike Florida Tour. The dates for the Bike Florida Capitol Tour are **March 29 - April 4, 2009**.

This year the ride begins and ends in beautiful Madison, Florida; a town full of antebellum memories, continues through Monticello and Wakulla Springs, then stops at the state capitol in Tallahassee for the Florida Bike Summit, a Florida Bicycle Association advocacy event. The ride then loops back to where you started in Madison.

Bike Florida is a fully supported bicycle camping tour which cycles along some of Florida's most scenic roads. The tour is leisurely paced and is a relaxing vacation for all bicyclists, no matter age or ability. As you ride beneath the tree canopied roads of Madison, Monticello and Wakulla, you will experience sights and sounds which give you more than a glimpse of Old Florida - the Florida of the 1930's.

For more information visit [www.bikeflorida.org](http://www.bikeflorida.org) or email [info@bikeflorida.org](mailto:info@bikeflorida.org).



#### PEDAL LLAMA 2 RIDE



*"Let the Llama Lug Your Load"*

Join Blake Ramey & Cycling Logistics as they explore the rural south Georgia countryside, **April 4 - 11, 2009**. Base camp for the week will be at Southern Gates campground ([www.southerngates.com](http://www.southerngates.com)) conveniently located off I-75 Exit 92. Various mileages each day. For more info, go to [www.cyclinglogistics.com](http://www.cyclinglogistics.com) and click on the Events link at the top of the page. You may also contact Blake at 478-954-3206.

#### ATHENS-TO-SAVANNAH DOUBLE CENTURY

Join fellow riders for an incredible, two-day, 210-mile bike journey from Athens, GA, to Savannah, GA. The 8th Annual ride departs from Clarke Middle School on **Friday, May 1, 2009**; and arrives in Savannah on **Saturday, May 2, 2009**. Car transportation will be arranged back to Athens on Sunday, May 3rd. This ride benefits Clarke Middle School. For more information, contact Dr. Sherman by phone at 706-248-9648 or email at [shermank@clarke.k12.ga.us](mailto:shermank@clarke.k12.ga.us).



**BIKE MS - GEORGIA POWER SAVANNAH RIDE**



Mark your calendar for the 4th annual Multiple Sclerosis Georgia Power Ride, **May 2 -3, 2009**, with 400 cyclists. The ride highlights picturesque routes through Savannah's Low Country and historical landmarks. Registration now open at <http://bikemssavannah.org/registertoday.html> or call 1-800-FIGHT-MS.

**TOUR DE CURE 2009**



The American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure will be held **Sunday, May 17, 2009**. Ride the "silk sheets" route which offers terrain so smooth and scenery so beautiful that you will think you are dreaming! For more information visit [www.diabetes.org/tour](http://www.diabetes.org/tour). You may also contact Rhonda King at [rking@diabetes.org](mailto:rking@diabetes.org).

**CHALLENGE OF THE CENTURIES**

Reserve the dates, **May 23 - 24, 2009**, and come ride the Challenge of the Centuries Ride in Hartwell, GA. Various mileage options both days include a century, metric century, or half-metric century with different routes each day. The ride is presented by the Kiwanis Club of Hartwell. For more information, visit [www.challengeofthecenturies.com](http://www.challengeofthecenturies.com)



**ALABAMA'S MAGNIFICENT BICYCLE ADVENTURE**



Alabama is bringing back their state ride **May 23 - 30, 2009**. According to Peter Wolf, Ride Director, AMBA is different than other 7-day rides. AMBA is staged in one location and has out and back loops every day. Since AMBA is staged in one location, you set up and break down camp just once, and your car is available very night. For registration information visit [www.amba1.com](http://www.amba1.com).

**WAYNE'S 60 RIDE**

Save the date, **Saturday, May 30, 2009**, and help Wayne Farr, a long-time BRAG rider and Chick-Fil-A operator, celebrate his 60th birthday. The ride will take place on The Silver Comet Trail and features a chick-fil-a lunch after the ride. Contact Jerry Colley at [Jerry@brag.org](mailto:Jerry@brag.org) for more information.



**HUNGARY WINE & BIKE TOUR**



We are pleased to announce that the Hungary Wine & Bike Tour, **September 1 - 10, 2009**, is full with 23 registered riders. The response has been excellent. A similar ride may be offered in 2010. Thanks for your support.



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