

## 2000

BRAG 2000, our 21st annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia was a significant event. Jerry Colley and Walt Martin led 1800 BRAG riders as they joined 200 Bike South riders in Eufaula, Alabama on a six day journey to Savannah, GA. Bike South riders had crossed Florida and Alabama prior to Georgia. They would continue across South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia to ride 2000 miles in the year 2000. All states altered their normal schedules to accomplish this adventure. BRAG registered on a Friday and started riding on Saturday. Instead of riding for seven days, we rode for six days to allow an off day for the Bike South riders in Savannah. As a result, some of the early BRAG days were long mileage days. A stomach virus weakened about 50 riders during the week and the heat and distances took their toll. Special Olympics Georgia returned for the second year to organize and manage BRAG's famous Rest Stops. Rest Stops included Providence Canyon State Park, Westville, Georgia Veterans State Park, Jefferson Davis Memorial, and historic Midway Church.

Eufaula treated us to a concert by The Atlanta Rhythm Section followed by spectacular fireworks. Americus opened the restored Rylander Theatre for movies and tours, and hosted the U. S. Army Band in Rylander Park downtown. Tifton welcomed us with free watermelon and an elaborate Welcome tent followed by a street dance that got moved inside because of threatening rain. Douglas performed an encore presentation of their "Jukebox Saturday Night" in the recently restored Martin Center. The crowd went wild when Walt Martin, Assistant Ride Director, rolled his bike from behind the curtains as part of the "Leader of the Pack" act. Vidalia was the site of the Annual Talent Show and Moonbase. Hinesville prepared a 'Low Country Boil' supper and entertained us with a local choir. In Savannah, riders celebrated at the End of the Road Party with a Bar-B-Cue pork and chicken meal, followed by medal presentations to our young riders. In addition, the U. S. Army Parachute team performed a precision jump to the football field at Savannah Country Day School.

### **TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, Passthru/Overnight, OVERNIGHT SITE**

EUFAULA, AL,AL: BARBOUR COUNTY,06/16/2000,O,EUFAULA HIGH SCHOOL

EUFAULA, AL,AL: BARBOUR COUNTY,06/17/2000,O,  
GEORGIA STATE LINE,QUITMAN,06/17/2000,P,  
ERNEST VANDIVER CAUSEWAY,QUITMAN,06/17/2000,P,  
GEORGETOWN,QUITMAN,06/17/2000,P,  
PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK,STEWART,06/17/2000,P,  
LUMPKIN,STEWART,06/17/2000,P,

WESTVILLE, STEWART, 06/17/2000, P,  
RICHLAND, STEWART, 06/17/2000, P,  
DACUSVILLE COMMUNITY, WEBSTER, 06/17/2000, P,  
PLAINS, SUMTER, 06/17/2000, P,  
JIMMY CARTER VISITORS CTR, SUMTER, 06/17/2000, P,  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HQ, SUMTER, 06/17/2000, P,  
AMERICUS, SUMTER, 06/17/2000, O, GEORGIA SW STATE UNIVERSITY

AMERICUS, SUMTER, 06/18/2000, O,  
FLINT RIVER, SUMTER, 06/18/2000, P,  
NONE, DOOLY, 06/18/2000, P,  
GA VETERANS MEMORIAL STATE PARK, CRISP, 06/18/2000, P,  
NONE, WORTH, 06/18/2000, P,  
ASHBURN, TURNER, 06/18/2000, P,  
SYCAMORE, TURNER, 06/18/2000, P,  
TIFTON, TIFT, 06/18/2000, O, ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRIC COLLEGE

TIFTON, TIFT, 06/19/2000, O,  
IRWINVILLE (UNINCORP), IRWIN, 06/19/2000, P,  
JEFF DAVIS MEMORIAL & MUSEUM, IRWIN, 06/19/2000, P,  
OCILLA, IRWIN, 06/19/2000, P,  
LAX COMMUNITY, COFFEE, 06/19/2000, P,  
DOUGLAS, COFFEE, 06/19/2000, O, SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

DOUGLAS, COFFEE, 06/20/2000, O,  
BROXTON, COFFEE, 06/20/2000, P,  
SNIPESVILLE COMMUNITY, JEFF DAVIS, 06/20/2000, P,  
HAZLEHURST, JEFF DAVIS, 06/20/2000, P,  
UVALDA, MONTGOMERY, 06/20/2000, P,  
ALSTON, MONTGOMERY, 06/20/2000, P,  
VIDALIA, TOOMBS, 06/20/2000, O, VIDALIA HIGH SCHOOL

VIDALIA, TOOMBS, 06/21/2000, O,  
LYONS, TOOMBS, 06/21/2000, P,  
NEW BRANCH COMMUNITY, TOOMBS, 06/21/2000, P,  
OHOOPEE RIVER, TATTNALL, 06/21/2000, P,  
REIDSVILLE, TATTNALL, 06/21/2000, P,  
GLENNVILLE, TATTNALL, 06/21/2000, P,  
BARNARD PARK, TATTNALL, 06/21/2000, P,  
NONE, LONG, 06/21/2000, P,  
GUM BRANCH, LIBERTY, 06/21/2000, P,  
HINESVILLE, LIBERTY, 06/21/2000, P,  
FLEMINGTON, LIBERTY, 06/21/2000, P,  
HINESVILLE, LIBERTY, 06/21/2000, O, LIBERTY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HINESVILLE, LIBERTY, 06/22/2000, O,  
DORCHESTER ACADEMY-CIVIL RIGHTS SITE, LIBERTY, 06/22/2000, P,

MIDWAY, LIBERTY, 06/22/2000, P,  
HISTORIC MIDWAY CHURCH, LIBERTY, 06/22/2000, P,  
HISTORIC MIDWAY CEMETERY, LIBERTY, 06/22/2000, P,  
SHAVETOWN COMMUNITY, LIBERTY, 06/22/2000, P,  
RICHMOND HILL, BRYAN, 06/22/2000, P,  
OGEECHEE RIVER, CHATHAM, 06/22/2000, P,  
SAVANNAH, CHATHAM, 06/22/2000, P,  
SAVANNAH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL, CHATHAM, 06/22/2000, E, SAVANNAH  
COUNTRY DAY SCH-EOR PARTY

## 2001

The 22nd annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia was a delightful traverse down the east side of the state, Starting at Hartwell, Jerry Colley led 2000 riders to overnights at Washington, Milledgeville, Dublin, Vidalia, Jesup, and ending on the water front just behind the historic light house on St Simons Island. For the first time, BRAG instituted a new tradition of a "layover" day. Spending two nights in Dublin, the riders had a choice of several loop rides, including a century, or just a rest day. The idea of a layover stop was well received and will be continued in future rides. The 2001 ride featured some memorable rest stops and some wonderful historical sites, starting with the Georgia Guide Stones in Elbert County, Georgia's version of Stonehenge. The riders were treated to a delightful rest stop in Crawfordville at the A. H. Stephens Memorial State Park, the home of Alexander Stephens, Georgia statesman and Vice-President of the Confederate States of America. In historic Washington, many riders toured the Robert Toombs home and several other historic homes that were open to the public. Milledgeville featured the Old State Capitol building and Georgia's Antebellum Capitol Museum. In Dublin, the mayor spoke to the riders and there was a special presentation of the US Postal Service flag as BRAG helped salute the great bicycling achievements of America's Lance Armstrong. In Vidalia, the mascot onion, "Yum Yum," paid us a visit. The weather was seasonably warm and humid during the ride, but not oppressive, and there was no rain except a few afternoon thunderstorms around Vidalia that blew in after most riders had finished riding.

### **TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, Passthru/Overnight, OVERNIGHT SITE**

NONE, SC: ANDERSON COUNTY, 06/16/2001, P,  
HARTWELL, HART, 06/16/2001, O, HART COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

HARTWELL, HART, 06/17/2001, O,  
NUBERG COMMUNITY, HART, 06/17/2001, P,

GEORGIA GUIDE STONES, ELBERT, 06/17/2001, P,  
ELBERTON, ELBERT, 06/17/2001, P,  
FORTSONIA COMMUNITY, ELBERT, 06/17/2001, P,  
BROAD RIVER, ELBERT, 06/17/2001, P,  
NORMAN COMMUNITY, WILKES, 06/17/2001, P,  
TIGNALL, WILKES, 06/17/2001, P,  
WASHINGTON, WILKES, 06/17/2001, O, WASHINGTON-WILKES COMP H.S.

WASHINGTON, WILKES, 06/18/2001, O,  
FICKLEN COMMUNITY, WILKES, 06/18/2001, P,  
SHARON, TALIAFERRO, 06/18/2001, P,  
CRAWFORDVILLE, TALIAFERRO, 06/18/2001, P,  
ALEXANDER STEPHENS STATE PARK, TALIAFERRO, 06/18/2001, P,  
POWELTON COMMUNITY, HANCOCK, 06/18/2001, P,  
SPARTA, HANCOCK, 06/18/2001, P,  
OCONEE RIVER, BALDWIN, 06/18/2001, P,  
MILLEDGEVILLE, BALDWIN, 06/18/2001, O, GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

MILLEDGEVILLE, BALDWIN, 06/19/2001, O,  
CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL, BALDWIN, 06/19/2001, P,  
TOOMSBORO, WILKINSON, 06/19/2001, P,  
STEPHENSVILLE, WILKINSON, 06/19/2001, P,  
DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/19/2001, O, DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL

DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/20/2001, O,  
DEXTER, LAURENS, 06/20/2001, P,  
CHESTER, DODGE, 06/20/2001, P,  
GOLDSBORO COMMUNITY, BLECKLEY, 06/20/2001, P,  
DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/20/2001, O, DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL

DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/21/2001, O,  
OCONEE RIVER, LAURENS, 06/21/2001, P,  
EAST DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/21/2001, P,  
LOTHAIR COMMUNITY, TREUTLEN, 06/21/2001, P,  
SOPERTON, TREUTLEN, 06/21/2001, P,  
TARRYTOWN COMMUNITY, MONTGOMERY, 06/21/2001, P,  
VIDALIA, TOOMBS, 06/21/2001, O, VIDALIA HIGH SCHOOL

VIDALIA, TOOMBS, 06/22/2001, O,  
LYONS, TOOMBS, 06/22/2001, P,  
NEW BRANCH COMMUNITY, TOOMBS, 06/22/2001, P,  
ROGERS STATE PRISON, TATTNALL, 06/22/2001, P,  
COWFORD COMMUNITY, TATTNALL, 06/22/2001, P,  
OHOPEE RIVER, TATTNALL, 06/22/2001, P,  
ALTAMAHA RIVER, APPLING, 06/22/2001, P,  
MADRAY SPRINGS COMMUNITY, WAYNE, 06/22/2001, P,  
JESUP, WAYNE, 06/22/2001, O, WAYNE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

JESUP, WAYNE, 06/23/2001, O,  
GARDI, WAYNE, 06/23/2001, P,  
MT PLEASANT COMMUNITY, WAYNE, 06/23/2001, P,  
EVERETT COMMUNITY, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, P,  
BRUNSWICK, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, P,  
BACK RIVER, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, P,  
LITTLE RIVER, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, P,  
MACKAY RIVER, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, P,  
FREDERICA RIVER, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, P,  
ST SIMONS ISL, GLYNN, 06/23/2001, E, NEPTUNE PARK-EOR PARTY

## 2002

The 2002 ride was the 23rd Bicycle Ride Across Georgia and many folks thought it was perhaps the most scenic of all. Jerry Colley led 1600 riders in a wide arc across north Georgia which featured routes that touched parts of Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Starting at Rockmart at the old high school, the riders traveled to overnight stops at Rome, Dalton, Ellijay, Hiawassee, and Toccoa before ending at the dam on beautiful Lake Hartwell at the South Carolina line. There were some hills to climb as the 2002 BRAG routes featured over 20,000 feet of climbing. Along the way the riders were treated to some of Georgia's most magnificent scenery as they pedaled through the Pocket Wilderness area, by Carters Dam, along the shores of Lake Chatuge, up and over Dicks Creek Gap and the Appalachian Trail, a breathtaking decent down by Lake Burton, and a shady and scenic ride down the Soque River Valley into Clarkesville. There were memorable rest stops along the way including stops at the historic Chief Van House near Chatsworth, lunch on the courthouse square in Blairsville, and bluegrass music at the Villanow Country Store. For the second year in a row, there was a layover day, this time at Ellijay. On the layover day, riders chose between loop rides from 40 to 100 miles, while others took the day to do some white water rafting, trout fishing, or just relaxing. The century ride was the most challenging ever offered by BRAG, but was also the most breathtaking. The weather for the entire week was mild and absolutely perfect for bike riding with temperatures in the 50's every morning, climbing into the high 70's and low 80's in the afternoons.

### **TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, Passthru/Overnight, OVERNIGHT SITE**

ROCKMART, POLK, 06/15/2002, O, ROCKMART H/S (OLD ONE)

ROCKMART, POLK, 06/16/2002, O,

ARAGON, POLK, 06/16/2002, P,

CEDARTOWN, POLK, 06/16/2002, P,  
CAVE SPRING, FLOYD, 06/16/2002, P,  
ALABAMA STATE LINE, AL:, 06/16/2002, P,  
NONE, FLOYD, 06/16/2002, P,  
COOSA RIVER, FLOYD, 06/16/2002, P,  
CLIFFS OF THE COOSA, FLOYD, 06/16/2002, P,  
ROME, FLOYD, 06/16/2002, O, ROME HIGH SCHOOL

ROME, FLOYD, 06/17/2002, O,  
JOHN'S MTN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, FLOYD, 06/17/2002, P,  
VILLANOW, WALKER, 06/17/2002, P,  
DALTON, WHITFIELD, 06/17/2002, O, DALTON HIGH SCHOOL

DALTON, WHITFIELD, 06/18/2002, O,  
CONASAUGA RIVER, WHITFIELD, 06/18/2002, P,  
SPRING PLACE, MURRAY, 06/18/2002, P,  
CARTER'S LAKE DAM, MURRAY, 06/18/2002, P,  
ELLIJAY, GILMER, 06/18/2002, O, ELLIJAY LIONS CLUB PK/GILMER H.S.

ELLIJAY, GILMER, 06/19/2002, O,  
JASPER, PICKENS, 06/19/2002, P,  
EAST ELLIJAY, GILMER, 06/19/2002, P,  
TOCCOA RIVER, FANNIN, 06/19/2002, P, CENTURY RIDE  
MORGANTON, FANNIN, 06/19/2002, P, CENTURY RIDE  
BLUE RIDGE, FANNIN, 06/19/2002, P, CENTURY RIDE  
ELLIJAY, GILMER, 06/19/2002, O, ELLIJAY LIONS CLUB PK/GILMER H.S.

ELLIJAY, GILMER, 06/20/2002, O,  
BLUE RIDGE, FANNIN, 06/20/2002, P,  
BLUE RIDGE DAM, FANNIN, 06/20/2002, P,  
MORGANTON, FANNIN, 06/20/2002, P,  
BLAIRSVILLE, UNION, 06/20/2002, P,  
HISTORICAL UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, UNION, 06/20/2002, P,  
BRASSTOWN BALD, UNION, 06/20/2002, P,  
TRACKROCK GAP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, UNION, 06/20/2002, P,  
YOUNG HARRIS, TOWNS, 06/20/2002, P,  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE LINE, NC:, 06/20/2002, P, PHOTO OPPORTUNITY  
HIAWASSEE RIVER, TOWNS, 06/20/2002, P,  
HIAWASSEE, TOWNS, 06/20/2002, O, TOWNS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

HIAWASSEE, TOWNS, 06/21/2002, O,  
DICKS CREEK GAP, TOWNS, 06/21/2002, P,  
NONE, RABUN, 06/21/2002, P,  
BATESVILLE, HABERSHAM, 06/21/2002, P,  
CLARKESVILLE, HABERSHAM, 06/21/2002, P,  
TOCCOA FALLS, STEPHENS, 06/21/2002, O, TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE

TOCCOA FALLS, STEPHENS, 06/22/2002, O,  
LAVONIA, FRANKLIN, 06/22/2002, P,  
HARTWELL, HART, 06/22/2002, P,  
BIG OAKS RECREATION AREA - EOR PARTY, HART, 06/22/2002, E,

## 2003

Bicycle Ride Across Georgia (BRAG) celebrated its 24th annual event with a ride across south Georgia, June 14 -21, from Bainbridge to St. Marys with overnight stops in Thomasville, Valdosta, Douglas, Waycross and Brunswick.

Jerry Colley led 1,800 riders on a 'flat' BRAG. Although advertised as a 'flat' BRAG, there were some surprise hills the first couple of days. Weather was hot and humid with afternoon and evening rain common. Scenery consisted of miles and miles of corn and tobacco fields interrupted occasionally with stands of slash and pulp pines. As the ride approached the coast, stately live oaks replaced some of the pine trees.

Each overnight town had arranged for local entertainment, but the highlight of the week was a production of "Jukebox Saturday Night" by local talent in Douglas. This group performed live 'oldies' for 2 hours and had BRAG riders on their feet even though they had pedaled 70 miles from Valdosta to Douglas earlier in the day.

Late arriving century riders finished in a downpour, but the rain didn't dampen their enthusiasm for their Century Bandana. A group of younger riders took advantage of the huge puddles left from the rain to body surf across the grassy lawns in what couldn't have been more than 2 inches of water. Ahh, youth!

Some riders were fortunate enough to see a small alligator at the Banks (pronounced Bank ses by the locals) Lake National Wildlife Refuge rest stop. Other riders afforded themselves the opportunity to tour the Okefenokee Swamp while in Waycross and saw some 'real' alligators. At the rest stop at the gazebo in Willacoochee, rest stop workers eagerly advised riders that "BRAG was the biggest thing that ever happened to Willacoochee!"

Riders arriving in St. Marys were cheered on by an enthusiastic group of cheerleaders from Camden County High School, before arriving at Waterfront Park for a low country boil meal and entertainment by the U S Navy band.

**TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, Passthru/Overnight, OVERNIGHT SITE**

BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR, 06/14/2003, O, BAINBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR, 06/15/2003, O,  
CLIMAX, DECATUR, 06/15/2003, P,  
WHIGHAM, GRADY, 06/15/2003, P,  
CAIRO, GRADY, 06/15/2003, P,  
OCHLOCKNEE, THOMAS, 06/15/2003, P,  
THOMASVILLE, THOMAS, 06/15/2003, O, MACINTYRE PK/MACINTYRE MIDDLE  
SCH

THOMASVILLE, THOMAS, 06/16/2003, O,  
PAVO, THOMAS, 06/16/2003, P,  
BARWICK, BROOKS, 06/16/2003, P,  
QUITMAN, BROOKS, 06/16/2003, P,  
VALDOSTA, LOWNDES, 06/16/2003, O, VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

VALDOSTA, LOWNDES, 06/17/2003, O,  
LAKELAND, LANIER, 06/17/2003, P,  
NONE, BERRIEN, 06/17/2003, P,  
WILLACOCHEE, ATKINSON, 06/17/2003, P,  
DOUGLAS, COFFEE, 06/17/2003, O, SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

DOUGLAS, COFFEE, 06/18/2003, O, SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE  
OCILLA, IRWIN, 06/18/2003, P,  
MYSTIC COMMUNITY, IRWIN, 06/18/2003, P,  
IRWINVILLE COMMUNITY, IRWIN, 06/18/2003, P,  
FITZGERALD, BEN HILL, 06/18/2003, P,  
BROXTON, COFFEE, 06/18/2003, P,  
DOUGLAS, COFFEE, 06/18/2003, O, SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

DOUGLAS, COFFEE, 06/19/2003, O,  
NICHOLLS, COFFEE, 06/19/2003, P,  
TALMO COMMUNITY, WARE, 06/19/2003, P,  
WAYCROSS, WARE, 06/19/2003, O, WAYCROSS COLLEGE

WAYCROSS, WARE, 06/20/2003, O,  
BLACKSHEAR, PIERCE, 06/20/2003, P,  
HORTENSE COMMUNITY, BRANTLEY, 06/20/2003, P,  
NEEDMORE COMMUNITY, BRANTLEY, 06/20/2003, P,  
BROWNTOWN COMMUNITY, BRANTLEY, 06/20/2003, P,  
BRUNSWICK, GLYNN, 06/20/2003, O, COASTAL GEORGIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BRUNSWICK, GLYNN, 06/21/2003, O,  
WHITE OAK COMMUNITY, CAMDEN, 06/21/2003, P,  
WOODBINE, CAMDEN, 06/21/2003, P,  
COLESBURG COMMUNITY, CAMDEN, 06/21/2003, P,

## 2004

BRAG 2004 celebrated the 25th year that bicycle riders enjoyed scenic Georgia from the seat of a bicycle. Jerry Colley and his band of volunteers led over 1,800 cyclists 397 miles from Toccoa to the Tybee Lighthouse on Tybee Island just east of Savannah. In addition to the BRAG volunteers, hundreds of host city volunteers worked hard to make the ride an enjoyable event for the riders. Special Olympics Georgia again took on the responsibility of organizing and staffing the rest stops with local volunteers along the way.

Registration at Toccoa Falls College began on a sunny, hot June Saturday which quickly turned into a hot, rainy, windy, and then much cooler afternoon. Early arrivals who failed to secure their tents or place them out of a dry stream bed helplessly watched as their overnight accommodations were blown over, pelted down, or flooded by the rainwater.

Rain continued off and on through the night and campers had to pack wet tents and gear the next morning before they left for Elberton. The morning was gray and misty, but riders were thankful for the overcast skies which provided a relief from what could have been a hot, steamy day. They encountered their toughest hill of the week as they left the college and began the climb to downtown Toccoa. Riders visited the Ty Cobb Museum in Royston and were treated to indoor and air conditioned restrooms. Upon arrival in Elberton, riders were greeted with a Welcome Tent, food vendors and shuttles which traveled to the Granite Bowl, a motorcycle cruis-in at the town square with more food vendors. In addition, the town had made arrangements for several shops and restaurants to open on Sunday. That night, riders enjoyed a "cow-drop bingo" (a BRAG First) before shuttling back to the square for a concert by The (Atlanta) Tams.

The next stop was Thomson where along the way, riders stopped at the Black Rock AME Church and the Robert Toombs house in Washington. Entertainment for the evening was the Crosstie Walkers Band.

Next stop was the "Taj Mahal of Georgia High Schools", Burke County High School in Waynesboro. This was the site of this year's layover day. There was plenty of air-conditioned space for hot riders and good food served by the school staff. This

was not your average high school cafeteria food. The day's ride was hot and riders experienced an almost nine-mile stretch of "shake and bake" and it was all uphill. Next, riders encountered a long stretch of road paving. The good news was that we got to ride on fresh pavement. The bad news was the pavement was hot and the stretch was mostly uphill. Entertainment for the night was the ever indescribable Moonbase.

On the layover day, riders chose from several ride options including the Bird Dog Century, and a stop at Plant Vogtle Recreation area. Other riders took advantage of the layover by doing laundry and trying to stay cool. The Hush Puppies Band provided entertainment for the evening.

The ride to Metter was the hottest of the week. Stops included Di-Lane Plantation which housed a mostly bird dog cemetery. However, the sign said "Pet Sematary" and there were some horses' and cats' grave markers. Camping was at the brand new Metter High School. The only bad thing about a new high school is that there are practically no trees in sight, so shade was a much sought after prize. Entertainment for the evening was the Annual BRAG Talent show followed by a Sock Hop outdoors. The school's air conditioning was really taxed due to the outdoor heat and the number of people who were inside.

Friday's ride to South Effingham County High School was hot and flat. The high school was pretty much in the middle of nowhere with the closest restaurants and motels almost nine miles away.

The final day again was hot and flat. Riders enjoyed a scenic ride through historic Savannah followed by a scenic ride across the marshes to Tybee Island and the Tybee Lighthouse Park, site of the End of The Road party. Many riders cooled off with a dip in the Atlantic Ocean before eating their BBQ chicken lunch and 25th Anniversary cake. Others opted for the shade and beverages at the North Beach Grill. Riders soon said their good-byes and headed back home and their real world duties having been refreshed by seeing Georgia from the seat of a bicycle.

**TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, Passthru/Overnight, OVERNIGHT SITE**

WESTMINSTER, SC: OCONEE, 06/12/2004, P,  
OLD MADISON COMMUNITY, SC: OCONEE, 06/12/2004, P,  
TUGALOO RIVER, STEPHENS, 06/12/2004, P,  
TOCCOA, STEPHENS, 06/12/2004, O, TOCCOA FALLS COL

TOCCOA, STEPHENS, 06/13/2004, O,  
CARNESVILLE, FRANKLIN, 06/13/2004, P,

VICTORIA BRYANT STATE PARK, FRANKLIN, 06/13/2004, P,  
FRANKLIN SPRINGS, FRANKLIN, 06/13/2004, P,  
ROYSTON, FRANKLIN, 06/13/2004, P,  
VANNA COMMUNITY, HART, 06/13/2004, P,  
BOWMAN COMMUN., ELBERT, 06/13/2004, P,  
DEWY ROSE COMM., ELBERT, 06/13/2004, P,  
ELBERTON, ELBERT, 06/13/2004, O, ELBERT CTY H/S

ELBERTON, ELBERT, 06/14/2004, O,  
FORTSONIA COMM., ELBERT, 06/14/2004, P,  
BROAD RIVER, WILKES, 06/14/2004, P,  
NORMAN COMMUN., WILKES, 06/14/2004, P,  
TIGNALL COMMUN., WILKES, 06/14/2004, P,  
WASHINGTON, WILKES, 06/14/2004, P,  
CADLEY COMMUN., WARREN, 06/14/2004, P,  
CEDAR ROCK COM., WARREN, 06/14/2004, P,  
THOMSON, MCDUFFIE, 06/14/2004, O, THOMSON HIGH SCHOOL

THOMSON, MCDUFFIE, 06/15/2004, O,  
NONE, WARREN, 06/15/2004, P,  
STAPLETON, JEFFERSON, 06/15/2004, P,  
WRENS, JEFFERSON, 06/15/2004, P,  
MATTHEWS COMM., JEFFERSON, 06/15/2004, P,  
WAYNESBORO, BURKE, 06/15/2004, O, BURKE CTY H/S

WAYNESBORO, BURKE, 06/16/2004, O,  
PLANT VOGTLE, BURKE, 06/16/2004, P,  
GIRARD, BURKE, 06/16/2004, P,  
MILLHAVEN COMM., SCREVEN, 06/16/2004, P,  
HILTONIA, SCREVEN, 06/16/2004, P,  
MILLEN, JENKINS, 06/16/2004, P,  
SARDIS, BURKE, 06/16/2004, P,  
WAYNESBORO, BURKE, 06/16/2004, O, BURKE CTY H/S

WAYNESBORO, BURKE, 06/17/2004, O,  
HERNDON COMM., JENKINS, 06/17/2004, P,  
GARFIELD, EMANUEL, 06/17/2004, P,  
TWIN CITY, EMANUEL, 06/17/2004, P,  
METTER, CANDLER, 06/17/2004, O, METTER HIGH SCH

METTER, CANDLER, 06/18/2004, O,  
EXCELSIOR COMM., CANDLER, 06/18/2004, P,  
ADABELLE COMM., BULLOCH, 06/18/2004, P,  
NEVILS COMMUNITY, BULLOCH, 06/18/2004, P,  
DENMARK COMM., BULLOCH, 06/18/2004, P,  
AKINS COMMUNITY, BULLOCH, 06/18/2004, P,  
GUYTON, EFFINGHAM, 06/18/2004, O, S EFFINGHAM H/S

GUYTON, EFFINGHAM, 06/19/2004, O,  
FAULKWELL COMM., EFFINGHAM, 06/19/2004, P,  
BLOOMINGDALE, CHATHAM, 06/19/2004, P,  
POOLER, CHATHAM, 06/19/2004, P,  
SAVANNAH, CHATHAM, 06/19/2004, P,  
TYBEE ISLAND, CHATHAM, 06/19/2004, E, TYBEE ISL LIGHT STATION-EOR

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## 2005

Close to 1800 riders gathered in Columbus, GA for the beginning of the 26th annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia. This year's route would take riders to overnight stays in Thomaston, Warner Robins, Dublin, Vidalia, and Jesup before arriving at the 'End of the Road' party at Jekyll Island. Ride Director Jerry Colley, Assistant Ride Director John Wood a large cast of volunteers opened registration at 12 noon at the Columbus Civic Center.

Saturday was pretty much of a wash-out for outdoor activities due to tropical storm Arlene. The entertainment was moved inside the Civic Center and a good thing. Rain and winds became stronger Saturday night. This was a shame because Columbus had gone all out to plan an exciting day for BRAG riders on Saturday.

Sunday was a soggy or not so soggy ride depending on when you left camp. Early riders left in the rain and got rained on again before reaching Thomaston. There were some major hills coming into Thomaston. Check out Pobiddy Road after crossing the Flint River if you are ever in the area. Those who left later were spared most of the rain -- only a shower or two. Arriving in Thomaston, we saw that the Swinging Medallions concert and the BBQ supper originally planned for the town square had been moved indoors at the middle school. This too was a good move because a strong rain started just about the time activities were scheduled to get underway downtown. The music was great and there was a good turn out of local folks.

Monday was humid and cool to start which was good since we hit our first 'hill' of the day 3 miles in. These hills were repeated incessantly until Rest Stop 4. When we left Rest Stop 3, we were warned on the route description that a 1.1 mile climb was coming up shortly. Many assumed that would be the end of the quad burners, but nooo, many more challenges - although shorter - faced the riders. By now, it had warmed considerably. The end at the middle school was a welcome sight. The Houston County folks created a mini-midway with entertainment, games,

refreshments, etc. which was also attended by local residents. No rain today, but there may be some evening showers.

Tuesday was a brutal day -- 82 miles camp to camp, hills, and high temperatures. Motel riders logged over 90 miles, motel to motel. Rest stops offered opportunities to visit the Sam Nunn Museum at the Houston County BOE, the restored Opera House in Hawkinsville, and the Bleckley County Courthouse in Cochran. Upon arriving at West Laurens High School in Dublin, riders were welcomed with cold water and soft drinks, along with Irish top hats. Laundry service was available. Lunches had been prepared by the school's booster clubs. The Mayor of Dublin welcomed riders before the evening entertainment at Heart of Georgia College. Shuttles ran throughout the day and night to restaurants and events downtown. The indescribable Moonbase "Planetarium" capped the day's events.

Wednesday was the off day or the Century Option or a 57 mile option. Another hot, hot day. Century riders received a coveted BRAG bandana for their perseverance. Many opted on the day off to just relax, do laundry, ride the shuttles into town and do some site seeing. The evening entertainment was the Annual BRAG Talent Show, hosted at the AIR CONDITIONED downtown theater. This turned out to be the best ever Talent Show, both due to the talent and the venue. The grassroots T-shirt contest took place while judges were tallying the winners of the Talent Show. After all the back and forth on the message board, Team Thrown Clear, a name familiar with veteran BRAG riders was declared the winner. Winners of the Talent Show (15 and under and over 15) were both singers who sang acappella. An ice cream social followed before loading the bus back to camp.

Thursday's ride to Vidalia was a short and 'sweet' 53 miler. Cooler temperatures, coupled with shorter miles and moderating hills provided riders with an opportunity for an early arrival at J. R. Trippe Middle School in Vidalia. A day full of events had been planned by the CVB, C of C and the school. There were many things for both adults and children scheduled. Art projects for the kids, along with a creek hike gave parents a mid-day break. Even better for the parents was a baby sitting service provided by the local Girl Scout Troup. The Special Olympics Dinner was held at the middle school cafeteria. Shuttles to downtown activities ran throughout the day. "Welcome BRAG" signs were predominantly displayed by many local businesses, shops and restaurants.

Friday's ride to Jesup was anticipated by riders who remembered the last visit in 2001. They were not disappointed. Although the overnight site was different (the New Wayne County HS), the same 'food court' type atmosphere greeted arriving riders -- grilled chicken, homemade ice cream, chilled melons, locally made grilled sausage sandwiches, hot boiled peanuts, spaghetti dinners, and other options were available.

Early Saturday morning, a rain shower greeted sleeping riders. Luckily, the rain stopped before most arose and started preparing for the final, fast 62 mile ride to Jekyll Island. The day was mostly overcast, temperatures were moderate, but the humidity was higher than it had been for the past few days. Rest Stop water was beginning to wear thin (sulphur well water) and riders were looking for convenience stores to get some 'real' water. The ride through Brunswick offered us the opportunity to visit the historic district before climbing our next to last hill for the week -- The Sidney Lanier Bridge. At the bottom of the bridge we made a left turn for the final leg to Jekyll where we were greeted with the final hill -- the M. E. Thompson Bridge, which in my opinion was a steeper grade (although shorter) than the Sidney Lanier.

Riders reunited with families at the Convention Center (also air conditioned) before eating the End of the Road meal. Kids under 15 received their medals. Goodbyes said, riders either headed home by car or bus, or headed to local motels for one last night on BRAG 2005.

**TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, Passthru/Overnight, OVERNIGHT SITE**

FT BENNING, MUSCOGEE, 06/11/2005, P,

COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE, 06/11/2005, O, COLUMBUS CIVIC CTR

COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE, 06/12/2005, O,

ELLERSLIE COMM., HARRIS, 06/12/2005, P,

TALBOTTON, TALBOT, 06/12/2005, P,

THOMASTON, UPSON, 06/12/2005, O, THOMASTON-UPSON CTY CIVIC CTR

THOMASTON, UPSON, 06/13/2005, O,

HICKORY GROVE COMMUNITY, CRAWFORD, 06/13/2005, P,

KNOXVILLE COMM., CRAWFORD, 06/13/2005, P,

FRIENDSHIP COMM., CRAWFORD, 06/13/2005, P,

BYRON, PEACH, 06/13/2005, P,

WARNER ROBINS, HOUSTON, 06/13/2005, O, HOUSTON CTY H/S

WARNER ROBINS, HOUSTON, 06/14/2005, O,

GROVANIA COMM., PERRY, 06/14/2005, P,

HAWKINSVILLE, PULASKI, 06/14/2005, P,  
COCHRAN, BLECKLEY, 06/14/2005, P,  
YONKERS COMM., DODGE, 06/14/2005, P,  
CHESTER, DODGE, 06/14/2005, P,  
DEXTER, LAURENS, 06/14/2005, P,  
DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/14/2005, O, WEST LAURENS H/S

DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/15/2005, O,  
DEXTER, LAURENS, 06/15/2005, P,  
CHESTER, DODGE, 06/15/2005, P,  
GOLDSBORO COMM, BLECKLEY, 06/15/2005, P,  
DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/15/2005, O, WEST LAURENS H/S

DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/16/2005, O,  
NONE, WHEELER, 06/16/2005, P,  
SOPERTON, TREUTLEN, 06/16/2005, P,  
NONE, MONTGOMERY, 06/16/2005, P,  
VIDALIA, TOOMBS, 06/16/2005, O, J R TRIPPE M/S

VIDALIA, TOOMBS, 06/17/2005, O,  
LYONS, TOOMBS, 06/17/2005, P,  
NEW BRANCH COM, TOOMBS, 06/17/2005, P,  
COWFORD COMM., TATTNALL, 06/17/2005, P,  
NONE, APPLING, 06/17/2005, P,  
MADRAY SPGS COM, WAYNE, 06/17/2005, P,  
JESUP, WAYNE, 06/17/2005, O, WAYNE CTY H/S

JESUP, WAYNE, 06/18/2005, O,  
GARDI, WAYNE, 06/18/2005, P,  
BRUNSWICK, GLYNN, 06/18/2005, E, JEKYL ISL AND CONVENTION CTR EOR

2006

The 27th annual BRAG cross-state ride convened in Dalton, GA under the direction of Jerry Colley and his assistant, Vicki Thompson. Overnight stops included Cartersville, Jasper, and Gainesville for 2 nights, Commerce, and Washington before ending on the Savannah River Esplanade in Augusta. Dalton High School provided the 1600 riders with an air-conditioned space for registration and sleeping. The Dalton Chamber of Commerce and CVB set up a welcome table with information on where to eat or shop staffed by friendly and knowledgeable people. Shuttle buses ran on a regular schedule. The highlight of visiting Dalton for

riders who had visited before was the fact that they did not have to ride up the Waugh Street hill.

Day 1 was a 71 mile, somewhat hilly, but scenic route through the Pocket Recreation Area, a lunch stop at the gazebo in Adairsville, and a rest stop in Kingston before arriving at Cartersville High School. Rest stops every 12 - 15 miles were again staffed and organized by Special Olympics Georgia this year. Mama Raphael provided breakfast at the 1st Rest Stop each day and The Veggie Lady was at all lunch stops. For riders who wanted more miles, Hammerhead Options were offered again this year and have proved to be quite popular.

Day 2 was the shortest day of the week at 43 miles and allowed visits to White and the Old Tennessee Highway before arriving in Jasper. This day also featured some long, "serious crimes, I mean serious climbs" according to our route descriptions. They were correct. It was another scenic route. Shuttle buses ran from Jasper Middle School, along with a hay ride to the square where riders, as well as local residents were entertained by a series of performers from clog dancers to gospel music. The Woodbridge Inn restaurant, normally closed on Mondays, opened just for BRAG riders and did a booming business.

Our 3rd day began with a light, misting drizzle, a gray sky and cool temperatures as we rode through Nelson (nasty hill), Ball Ground (another nasty hill and a detour), and Silver City before arriving at Gainesville High School which was the layover site. At the lunch stop, the temperature was a cool 65 degrees. The day's route proved to be challenging with some of the steepest climbs of the week -- 18% in the residential area along Lake Lanier, just before arriving at the high school. Moonbase "Planetarium" was the featured entertainment at the high school. Riders who went to the downtown area were greeted with "Welcome BRAG" signs in many of the shop and restaurant windows.

The layover day provided riders with a 31 mile, a 59 mile, a 101 mile or a zero mile option. Those opting for the zero mile option used the day to rest, do laundry, and enjoy a lunchtime concert (or nap) at the historic center of town in a grassy, shaded park. Those who rode the longer routes were treated to some tough hills. This year's Century Route was named the Dale Spencer Century in memory of a long time BRAG rider who passed away unexpectedly just before BRAG. Century riders were rewarded with bandannas.

Day 5 took riders to Commerce past Chateau Élan Winery, a rest

stop at Mayfield Dairy, and through Braselton, Jefferson, and Apple Valley. A former BRAG rider provided encouraging signs in front of his house on Old Pendergrass Road. There were also two lemonade stands on this day's route between the last rest stop and the arrival at Commerce Middle School. Enthusiastic, yellow-shirted cheer leaders and volunteers greeted the riders at the school. Goody bags were distributed to riders at the hospitality tent. Hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, watermelon and other goodies were available for purchase. Shuttles ran to the historic part of Commerce where restaurants did an overflow business. The annual Talent Show gave American Idol wannabes an opportunity to perform before a somewhat captive audience.

Commerce to Washington was a 67 mile day through Danielsville and Colbert. The hills became a bit friendlier. Upon arrival at Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive Middle School, riders were again greeted by friendly volunteers and opportunities to buy refreshments and at the same time help local groups raise money. Shuttles ran to the town square, where again restaurants did 'stand in line' business at lunch and supper. The Historic Fitzpatrick Hotel put on a special BRAG buffet and entertainment was provided on the square until late into the evening. This was confirmed by those who spent the night at the Fitzpatrick.

The last day was a 63 miler to the End of the Road Party in Augusta. Local Wilkes County EMTs riding their motorcycles provided an escort from Washington to the county line. The route provided scenic views at Greenwood Baptist Church and Clarks Hill Lake before arriving at the equally scenic Savannah River Esplanade. Those who took the Fat Tire Option (although many skinny tire bikes were spotted), were treated to scenic views of the Savannah River, the Savannah River Dam, and the Augusta Canal. The End of the Road meal featured a Taco Bar at the Augusta Marriott along with a piece of the 27th Annual Ride cake while it lasted. Busses to Atlanta, Dalton and Gainesville departed at 3:00PM and signaled the end of BRAG 2006.

**TOWN, COUNTY ,DATE, PASSTHRU/OVERNIGHT, OVERNIGHT SITE**

NONE, CATOOSA, 06/10/2006, P  
NONE, WHITFIELD, 6/10/2006, P  
RED CLAY STATE PK, BRADLEY, TN, 06/10/2006, P  
DALTON, WHITFIELD, 06/10/2006, O, DALTON H/S  
  
DALTON, WHITFIELD, 06/11/2006, O  
NONE, WALKER, 06/11/2006, P  
NONE, FLOYD, 06/11/2006, P  
NONE, GORDON, 06/11/2006, P

ADAIRSVILLE, BARTOW, 06/11/2006, P  
KINGSTON, BARTOW, 06/11/2006, P  
CARTERSVILLE, BARTOW, 06/11/2006, O, CARTERSVILLE H/S

CARTERSVILLE, BARTOW, 06/12/2006, O  
WHITE, BARTOW, 06/12/2006, P  
NONE, CHEROKEE, 06/12/2006, P  
JASPER, PICKENS, 06/12/2006, O, JASPER M/S

JASPER, PICKENS, 06/13/2006, O  
TATE, PICKENS, 06/13/2006, P  
NELSON, PICKENS, 06/13/2006, P  
BALL GROUND, CHEROKEE, 06/13/2006, P  
NONE, FORSYTH, 06/13/2006, P  
SILVER CITY COMM, DAWSON, 06/13/2006, P  
GAINESVILLE, HALL, 06/13/2006, O, GAINESVILLE H/S

GAINESVILLE, HALL, 06/14/2006, O  
RABBITTOWN COMM, HALL, 06/14/2006, P  
GILLSVILLE, HALL, 06/14/2006, P  
NONE, BANKS, 06/14/2006, P  
CLERMONT, HALL, 06/14/2006, P  
BROOKTON COMM, HALL, 06/14/2006, P  
GAINESVILLE, HALL, 06/14/2006, O, GAINESVILLE H/S

GAINESVILLE, HALL, 06/15/2006, O  
NONE, JACKSON, 06/15/2006, P  
NONE, BARROW, 06/15/2006, P  
BRASELTON, JACKSON, 06/15/2006, P  
JEFFERSON, JACKSON, 06/15/2006, P  
APPLE VALLEY COMM, JACKSON, 06/15/2006, P  
COMMERCE, JACKSON, 06/15/2006, O, COMMERCE M/S

COMMERCE, JACKSON, 06/16/2006, O  
POCOTALIGO COMM, MADISON, 06/16/2006, P  
DANIELSVILLE, MADISON, 06/16/2006, P  
COLBERT, MADISON, 06/16/2006, P  
NONE, OGLETHORPE, 06/16/2006, P  
WASHINGTON, WILKES, 06/16/2006, O, WASH-WILKES H/S

WASHINGTON, WILKES, 06/17/2006, O  
AMITY COMM, LINCOLN, 06/17/2006, P  
LEATHERSVILLE COMM, LINCOLN, 06/17/2006, P  
LIBERTY HILL COMM, LINCOLN, 06/17/2006, P  
POLLARDS CRN, COLUMBIA, 06/17/2006, P  
AUGUSTA, RICHMOND, 06/17/2006, EOR, AUGUSTA MARRIOT

2007

The 28<sup>th</sup> version of the Bicycle Ride Across Georgia (BRAG) convened in Columbus, GA on a hot Saturday at the Columbus Civic Center. Over 1540 cyclists would cross the state on their 421 mile journey to Savannah under the direction of Ride Director Vicki Thompson and BRAG's CEO Jerry Colley. Countless numbers of volunteers assisted all across the state. Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) organized and staffed the Rest Stops for their ninth year. Overnight stops included Americus, Cordele, Douglas (two nights), Baxley, and Hinesville. Hammerhead Options were available to riders who wanted more miles than the main routes provided. BRAG's Dream Team this year was not only made up of boys and girls from the Atlanta area, but also welcomed two youngsters and a mentor from New Orleans' Ninth Ward.

This version of BRAG could be described as a week of contrasts. Day 1 and 2 were extremely hot followed by rain on Day 3 which brought in cooler than normal temperatures for the remainder of the week. Riders were seen wearing jackets as they left camp on the cool mornings (low to mid 60s.) Another contrast was the experience of riding some really rough 'shake and bake' roads followed by some smooth as silk roads. The Century was especially brutal. Another contrast was seeing first hand the effect of the drought in South Georgia and the impact it had on farms in the area. One could see plowed fields that had never been planted next to a planted field where the crops had withered and died. Just down the road, at a farm with an extensive irrigation system the crops were lush and green. And those who expected a 'flat BRAG' because it was in South Georgia were in for a surprise the first three days as they encountered quite a few hills. However, the topography began to go mostly downhill or flat toward the end of the week. There was one other contrast worth mentioning - the relative quiet at rest stops compared to the "take off your gloves and wash your hands" volunteer at Rest Stop 2 every day. She was vocal but effective and most riders were joking with her by the end of the week.

In Columbus, riders were provided shuttle rides to the historic section of downtown Columbus where they were entertained by a variety of bands. Restaurants along the historic section were packed. There was no mistaking that Columbus is a military town (Fort Benning) in that MPs were visible alongside their Columbus police counterparts.

Day 1 was sunny and already warm before 7:00AM. The 70-mile route began along the River Walk Path adjacent to the

Chattahoochee River before riding through Fort Benning. Riders passed the National Civil War Naval Museum and enjoyed early morning views of the river. As riders entered Marion County, they were encouraged with hundreds of signs posted along the route - everything from "Welcome BRAG" to "Peaches, Peanuts and BRAG." In Buena Vista (pronounced Bewna by locals) riders were greeted enthusiastically at the Marion County Courthouse, the 3<sup>rd</sup> rest stop of the day. At the last rest stop of the day at Friendship Camp in Sumter County, several riders were seen using the swimming pool to cool off before finishing the day at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus. Just outside of camp, riders were treated to free drinks provided by Café Campesino at their Corporate Headquarters across the street from the Habitat for Humanity Global Village. Those with enough energy were treated to a party and music at the Lakehouse on campus.

Day 2 again was hot early and stayed that way all day. The 62-mile ride visited Andersonville National Historic Site, a sobering location. Lunch, provided this year by Mama Raphael, was in Vienna on the town square. Vienna is another of those Georgia towns whose name is pronounced differently by locals than by visitors. In this case, it is Vy An Na. The overnight camp was at Crisp County High School in Cordele. Riders had shuttles available and were entertained by a DJ in the school cafeteria.

Day 3, riders awoke to a steady rain that did not slack until after 9:00AM. In addition to the rain, this was the longest day of the week - 73 miles. The lunch stop was in Fitzgerald at the Blue and Gray Museum. By the time many riders arrived in Douglas, the sun had come out and riders took advantage of the free swimming pool one mile from the finish at Davis Wade Park before arriving at the South Georgia College campus. The local production of Jukebox Saturday Night was again performed for BRAG riders and local townspeople. This has become somewhat of a tradition for BRAG's visit to Douglas. This year's surprise BRAG rider to participate in the "Leader of the Pack" number was none other than Jerry Colley.

Day 4 was the layover day in Douglas. Riders had the option to ride 65 miles, 28 miles, 101 miles or 0 miles. The day was cool with a bit of a breeze. The main route went to Willacoochee and Pearson before returning to Douglas. Century riders looped east from Pearson to Axson before returning to Pearson for the return ride to Douglas. Century riders were rewarded for their effort with a commemorative BRAG bandana. Those who didn't ride could

be spotted throughout town at the local laundromat or local restaurants. The city of Douglas put on Beach Bash 2007 with a band and vendors selling soft drinks and ice cream. A parking lot was transformed into a 'beach' complete with sand for the kids of all ages to build sand castles. Those who chose to stay up late had the option of participating in the indescribable Moonbase Planetarium show put on by Michael Lachowski.

Day 5, again a cool start, was a short day - only 45 miles. However, the cool temps brought an easterly to north easterly wind. This coupled with some serious 'shake and bake' made for a ride that felt longer. Upon arrival at Appling County Comprehensive High School in Baxley, riders were treated to music from the press box overlooking the football field and were able to take shuttles into town. Again, all restaurants on the shuttle stop were packed and waits for service were long. At camp, riders were entertained by the annual BRAG Talent Show.

Day 6, a 58-mile ride to Hinesville was cool and flat. Lunch was at a rifle range at Ft. Stewart. Shortly after leaving Glennville, riders experienced long stretches of flat roads with lots of pine trees and signs warning of 'Tank Crossings,' and 'Caution, Weapon Fire Today.' At the lunch stop, riders witnessed a sight from earlier BRAGs when water was supplied by a water buffalo, a large tank of water towed behind an Army truck. Those arriving late at Bradwell Institute, the last overnight of the week, were subjected to a brief afternoon rain. The night's entertainment was an Elvis impersonator who got rave reviews.

The last day's ride of 47 miles to Savannah's Daffin Park was again a flat, cool ride. Departure from Hinesville was through Fort Stewart. As riders approached Savannah, they experienced the most traffic of the week, but were quickly routed through residential areas for the final rendezvous with family and friends at Grayson Stadium, 'Home of the Savannah Sand Gnats,' a minor league baseball team whose souvenir T-shirts carry the motto "Bite Me." Lunch was typical ball park fare enjoyed in the shaded seats of the ball park. Riders 15 and under received their medals for completing the ride and the Dream Team arrived to a hearty round of applause. BRAG founder, Dot Moss, assisted Ride Director, Vicki Thompson, in giving out the kids' medals. Buses left for Columbus, Atlanta and Douglas at 3:00PM signaling the close of BRAG 28.

**TOWN, COUNTY ,DATE, PASSTHRU/OVERNIGHT, OVERNIGHT SITE**  
FT BENNING, MUSCOGEE, 06/09/2007, P,

ALABAMA STATE LINE,AL:,06/09/2007,P,  
COLUMBUS,MUSCOGEE,06/09/2007,O,COLUMBUS CIVIC CTR

COLUMBUS,MUSCOGEE,06/10/2007,O,  
FT BENNING,MUSCOGEE,06/10/2007,P,  
NONE,CHATTAHOOCHEE,06/10/2007,P,  
BUENA VISTA,MARION,06/10/2007,P,  
AMERICUS,SUMTER,06/10/2007,O,GA SW STATE UNIV

AMERICUS,SUMTER,06/11/2007,O,  
NONE,SCHLEY,06/11/2007,P,  
ANDERSONVILLE,SUMTER,06/11/2007,P,  
VIENNA,DOOLY,06/11/2007,P,  
CORDELE,CRISP,06/11/2007,O,CRISP CTY H/S

CORDELE,CRISP,06/12/2007,O,  
NONE,WILCOX,06/12/2007,P,  
REBECCA,TURNER,06/12/2007,P,  
NONE,BEN HILL,06/12/2007,P,  
NONE,IRWIN,06/12/2007,P,  
FITZGERALD,BEN HILL,06/12/2007,P,  
OSIERFIELD,IRWIN,06/12/2007,P,  
AMBROSE,COFFEE,06/12/2007,P,  
DOUGLAS,COFFEE,06/12/2007,O,SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

DOUGLAS,COFFEE,06/13/2007,O,  
BRIDGETOWN COM,COFFEE,06/13/2007,P,  
WILLACOOCHEE,ATKINSON,06/13/2007,P,  
PEARSON,ATKINSON,06/13/2007,P,  
AXSON (C),ATKINSON,06/13/2007,P,  
DOUGLAS,COFFEE,06/13/2007,O,SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

DOUGLAS,COFFEE,06/14/2007,O,  
WEST GREEN COMM,COFFEE,06/14/2007,P,  
NONE,JEFF DAVIS,06/14/2007,P,  
NONE,BACON,06/14/2007,P,  
BAXLEY,APPLING,06/14/2007,O,APPLING CTY H/S

BAXLEY,APPLING,06/15/2007,O,  
MCTIER COMM,APPLING,06/15/2007,P,  
GLENNVILLE,TATTNALL,06/15/2007,P,  
FT STEWART,LONG,06/15/2007,P,  
FT STEWART,LIBERTY ,06/15/2007,P,  
HINESVILLE,LIBERTY ,06/15/2007,O,BRADWELL INST

HINESVILLE,LIBERTY,06/16/2007,O,  
FT STEWART,LIBERTY,06/16/2007,P,

NONE, BRYAN, 06/16/2007, P,  
SAVANNAH, CHATHAM, 06/16/2007, EOR, GRAYSON STADIUM DAFFIN PK

## 2008

Over 1700 cyclists took BRAG's tag line "You can't BRAG if you don't ride" to heart to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> annual cross state bike ride. Cyclists from 34 states as well as New Zealand, Canada, and the Virgin Islands, participated in this year's ride. Led by Ride Director Vicki Thompson with assistance from Jerry Colley, Roz Moore and hundreds of dedicated volunteers across the state, riders were treated to a varied terrain (hilly early in the week before flattening out later in the week), generally hot temperatures and lots of 'shake and bake' roads. The route included overnight stays in Griffin, Macon, Dublin (2 nights), Hazlehurst, and Jesup before the final day's ride to St. Simons Island and the End of the Road Party. Hammerhead Options were offered most days for those riders who wanted a bit more of a challenge. This year's ride marked the 15<sup>th</sup> annual BRAG Dream Team.

Registration was held at Emory at Oxford College in Oxford, GA. The shaded quad provided a unique and picturesque outdoor camping area for the tent campers. Shuttles were provided by the nearby town of Covington for riders to enjoy shopping, dining, and dancing at the historic square.

Day 1's 56 mile route to Griffin included visits to Covington, Porterdale, Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, and Noah's Ark in Locust Grove before arriving at Spalding High School in Griffin. Entertainment included bands in the afternoon in downtown Griffin, followed by a Beatles Tribute band *The Return* in the evening.

Day 2's route took riders 60 miles through Barnesville and Yatesville before arriving at First Presbyterian Day School in Macon. Entertainment for the night was provided by those brave enough to participate in BRAG Karaoke Night.

Day 3, a 61 mile ride through Jeffersonville and Irwinton, treated riders to a visit to Ocmulgee National Monument via the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail on the way out of Macon. Riders with sharp eyes may have seen the Otis Redding memorial on Riverside Drive before entering the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail. And then there was the one-mile climb up Riggins Mill Road. In addition to some great views of adjacent ridge lines along the climb, riders saw firsthand some of the damage a May tornado inflicted

on the areas around Macon. Before arriving at Dublin High School, riders had to climb "one last hill" before calling it a day.

Day 4 in Dublin offered riders options of zero to 100 miles. Many chose to use the day for relaxing, doing laundry, visiting downtown Dublin for restaurants and ice cream. Some found the Farmers Market and a supply of fresh locally grown fruits. Those who chose to ride found the hills beginning to moderate a bit while visiting Dexter and Chester before returning to Dublin High School. Once again, riders were entertained by the Indescribable Moonbase Planetarium.

Riders on Day 5 found the route becoming flatter on their 66 mile ride to Jeff Davis County High School in Hazlehurst, while visiting Mount Vernon along the way. Before arriving in Mt. Vernon, riders passed a Vidalia onion farm but none stopped to sample the true Georgia sweet onion. Upon arrival at JDCHS, riders were treated to a flurry of yellow-shirted students, boosters and faculty who were available for any assistance riders might need. Motelers were pleased to find shuttle service to motels in Baxley, Alma and Douglas since Hazlehurst had very few motel rooms available. The town provided entertainment downtown.

Day 6 provided riders with moderate terrain over the 60 mile route, 20 miles of which were 'shake and bake' according to the route description. But for most of the riders, the S&B proved to be less harsh than S&B earlier in the week. It was truly a rural ride before arriving at Wayne County High School in Jesup. Upon arrival, riders were treated to a vast array of food choices along a food vendors' row that included BBQ, pizza, boiled peanuts, soft serve yogurt, fresh blueberries, chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers and much more. The riders were entertained at the school by the Second Chance Band.

The final day was a 54 mile, mostly flat and fast ride to Gascoigne Bluff on St. Simons Island. While a good portion of the route was along a federal highway with adequate shoulder, low traffic but no shade, riders were treated to a ten-mile stretch of tree shaded canopy on Old Jesup Road which paralleled the federal highway. One last challenge remained before the End of the Road BBQ meal -- the final climb over the Mackay River on the F. J. Torras Causeway.

At the End of the Road, riders joined family and friends to celebrate their journey. Kids 15 and under were rewarded with

medals for their week in the saddle. Cars were loaded and the drive home began for most. Others loaded the buses to return to Dublin or Atlanta. And a few decided to extend their week with an additional day or two enjoying the beach on St. Simons.

**TOWN, COUNTY ,DATE, PASSTHRU/OVERNIGHT, OVERNIGHT SITE**

NONE,WALTON,06/07/2008,P,  
OXFORD,NEWTON,06/07/2008,O,OXFORD COLLEGE

OXFORD,NEWTON,06/08/2008,O,  
COVINGTON,NEWTON,06/08/2008,P,  
PORTERDALE,NEWTON,06/08/2008,P,  
MONASTARY,ROCKDALE,06/08/2008,P,  
LOCUST GROVE,HENRY,06/08/2008,P,  
NOAH'S ARK,HENRY,06/08/2008,P,  
RINGGOLD COMM,SPALDING,06/08/2008,P,  
E GRIFFIN COMM,SPALDING,06/08/2008,P,  
GRIFFIN,SPALDING,06/08/2008,O,SPALDING H/S

GRIFFIN,SPALDING,06/09/2008,O,  
ORCHARD HILL,SPALDING,06/09/2008,P,  
JOHNSTONVILLE COMM,LAMAR,06/09/2008,P,  
GOGGANS,LAMAR,06/09/2008,P,  
BARNESVILLE,LAMAR,06/09/2008,P,  
YATESVILLE,UPSON,06/06/2008,P,  
RUSSELLVILLE,MONROE,06/09/2008,P,  
MACON,BIBB,06/09/2008,O,1ST PRESBY DAY SCHOOL

MACON,BIBB,06/10/2008,O,  
DRY BRANCH,TWIGGS,06/10/2008,P,  
JEFFERSONVILLE,TWIGGS,06/10/2008,P,  
NEW PROVIDENCE COMM,WILKINSON,06/10/2008,P,  
COOKTOWN COMM,WILKINSON,06/10/2008,P,  
DUBLIN,LAURENS,06/10/2008,O,DUBLIN H/S

DUBLIN,LAURENS,06/11/2008,O,  
DEXTER,LAURENS,06/11/2008,P,  
CHESTER,DODGE,06/11/2008,P,  
NONE,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,  
YONKERS COMM,DODGE,06/11/2008,P,  
COCHRAN,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,  
PAULK COMMUN,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,  
PORTER COMMUN,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,  
COLEY COMMUN,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,  
NONE,TWIGGS,06/11/2008,P,  
CARY COMMUN,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,  
GOLDSBORO COMM,BLECKLEY,06/11/2008,P,

DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/11/2008, O, DUBLIN H/S

DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/12/08, O,  
EAST DUBLIN, LAURENS, 06/12/08, P,  
NONE, TREUTLEN, 06/12/08, P,  
MT VERNON, MONTGOMERY, 06/12/08, P,  
HAZLEHURST, JEFF DAVIS, 06/12/08, O, JEFF DAVIS CTY H/S

HAZLEHURST, JEFF DAVIS, 06/13/2008, O,  
NONE, APPLING, 06/13/2008, P,  
CROSSROADS COMM, WAYNE, 06/13/2008, P,  
JESUP, WAYNE, 06/13/2008, O, WAYNE CTY H/S

JESUP, WAYNE, 06/14/2008, O,  
GARDI, WAYNE, 06/14/2008, P,  
MT PLEASANT COMM, WAYNE, 06/14/2008, P,  
BRUNSWICK, GLYNN, 06/14/2008, P,  
ST SIMONS ISL, GLYNN, 06/14/2008, EOR, GASCOIGNE BLUFF

## 2009

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia, with nearly 1,500 riders, started in the town of Hiawassee and ended at Savannah Lakes Resort on Clarks Hill Lake in McCormick, SC. Overnight sites included Dahlonega, Mt. Airy, Athens, Elberton and Washington. This year's ride was led by Ride Director Vicki Thompson, CEO Jerry Colley, Roz Moore and hundreds of volunteers across the state. Each day's route, except Saturday's, offered a regular route as well as a longer 'Hammerhead' option.

Cycle Works and Free Flite bike shops were along to provide mechanical assistance and Mama Raphael and Chris Cakes provided nutrition assistance. Special Olympics of Georgia had their team of riders and provided rest stop support as well. Also, the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Dream Team, decked out in their green and white REI 'kits,' were led by Atiba Mbiwan and his team of mentors. They made a grand entrance to the End of the Ride Party, riding en mass to celebrate their week's journey.

Day 1 - 50 miles, Hiawassee to Dahlonega. Many were concerned about the climb to Unicoi Gap but made it, some faster and some slower than others. Mountain laurel and honeysuckle were in bloom offering pleasant sights and scents on the way up. The 7+ mile descent into Helen was tricky and fast. Several riders developed flat tires on the way down and were serviced by the SAG wagons. Arriving in Helen, riders were treated to views of cabins nestled along the banks of the Chattahoochee River. Riders visited the Babyland General Hospital, home of the Cabbage Patch dolls in Cleveland, passed several vineyards before the 1.2 mile "very strenuous" climb just outside of Dahlonega. Overnight was at the Lumpkin County Middle School.

Day 2 - 47 miles, Dahlonega to Mt. Airy. Another hilly day, with visits to Murrayville, Clermont, Alto and Cornelia before arriving at Habersham Central High School in Mt. Airy. Along the way, riders were treated to a view of a genuinely over sized rocking chair in a field, a Big Apple statue and quite likely the world's shortest bike lane in Cornelia. Patience was tested as the BRAG 2009 Panoramic Photo was taken here in celebration of BRAG's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride.

Day 3 - 65 miles, Mt. Airy to Athens. Another hilly day but moderating a bit, riders visited Homer and Commerce before arriving at Clarke Middle School in Athens. They soon learned that Athens is a hilly city wherever they went. Bluegrass music was available at the Melting Point with BRAG riders getting in free with their wrist bands.

Day 4 - 0, 26, 57 or 100 miles. This was a day where riders had a choice of mileages. Those who chose the 0 mile option chilled out at the movie theater close to the school or found their way to a laundromat to wash some clothes. Others did some sightseeing in Athens. The 57-mile option included visits to Watkinsville and Bishop. The century option continued to the towns of Bostwick, Rutledge, Social Circle and Good Hope. In the evening, Moonbase Planetarium was offered in a field far away. Also, beach music was being played at Gnats Landing, an easy walk from camp.

Day 5 - 54 miles, Athens to Elberton. Riders rode by Sanford Stadium, home of the University of Georgia football Bulldogs, on their way out of Athens. They visited Winterville, Watson Mill State Park and the covered bridge, Dewey Rose community, and the Georgia Guidestones on their way to Elbert County Comprehensive High School. Sights along the way included a very large and loud rooster farm, antique and rusting farm implements, and antique automobiles. Riders were entertained by a Cow Patty Drop on the football field, the BRAG Talent show downtown and music on the square after the Talent Show.

Day 6 - 63 miles, Elberton to Washington. The terrain on this day was rolling with no 'serious' climbs. Riders enjoyed a rest stop at the Nancy Hart Historical Park, and passed two large farms - Rolling M Ranch (comes by its name from the rolling hills) and Callaway Ranch (established 1783.) Riders had an option of visiting the Kettle Creek Revolutionary War Battle Site. Communities visited included Tignall and Rayle on the way to Washington - Wilkes Comprehensive High School. Riders who went into town for supper were entertained by live music in most of the restaurants.

Day 7 - 43 miles, Washington to Savannah Lakes Resort. As riders left Washington, they passed by the Robert Toombs House. This last day was a short and fast ride for many as they visited Sandtown community, Danburg community, Goshen community, Lincolnton and were rewarded with a scenic view of Clarks Hill Lake and the Savannah River. At the End of the Road Party, riders were treated to a hot dog and hamburger buffet with all the trimmings. Kids 15 and under and seniors 70 and older received their gold medals for completing the ride. After lunch, riders said their good byes to old and new friends alike until next year.

**TOWN, COUNTY, DATE, PASSTHRU/OVERNIGHT, OVERNIGHT SITE**

NC STATE LINE, NC: CLAY, 06/06/2009, P,  
HIAWASSEE, TOWNS, 06/06/2009, O, TOWNS CTY H/S

HIAWASSEE, TOWNS, 06/07/2009, O,  
UNICOI GAP, TOWNS, 06/07/2009, P,  
ROBERTSTOWN COMM, WHITE, 06/07/2009, P,  
HELEN, WHITE, 06/07/2009, P,  
CLEVELAND, WHITE, 06/07/2009, P,  
DAHLONEGA, LUMPKIN, 06/07/2009, O, LUMPKIN CTY M/S

DAHLONEGA, LUMPKIN, 06/08/2009, O,  
CLERMONT, HALL, 06/08/2009, P,  
ALTO, HABERSHAM, 06/08/2009, P,  
BALDWIN, HABERSHAM, 06/08/2009, P,  
CORNELIA, HABERSHAM, 06/08/2009, P,  
MT. AIRY, HABERSHAM, 06/08/2009, O, HABERSHAM CENTRAL H/S

MT. AIRY, HABERSHAM, 06/09/2009, O,  
NONE, STEPHENS, 06/09/2009, P,  
NONE, BANKS, 06/09/2009, P,  
COMMERCE, JACKSON, 06/09/2009, P,  
ATHENS, CLARKE, 06/09/2009, O, CLARKE M/S

ATHENS, CLARKE, 06/10/2009, O,  
UNIV OF GA, CLARKE, 06/10/2009, P,  
WATKINSVILLE, OCONEE, 06/10/2009, P,  
EAGLE TAVERN MUSEUM, OCONEE, 06/10/2009, P,  
N HIGH SOALS, OCONEE, 06/10/2009, P,  
BISHOP, OCONEE, 06/10/2009, P,  
ATHENS, CLARKE, 06/10/2009, O, CLARKE M/S

ATHENS, CLARKE, 06/11/2009, O,  
SANFORD STADIUM, CLARKE, 06/11/2009, P,  
WINTERVILLE, CLARKE, 06/11/2009, P,  
WATSON MILL PK, MADISON, 06/11/2009, P,  
CARLTON, MADISON, 06/11/2009, P,  
NICKVILLE COMM, ELBERT, 06/11/2009, P,  
DEWEY ROSE COMM, ELBERT, 06/11/2009, P,  
13 FORKS COMM, ELBERT, 06/11/2009, P,  
GA GUIDESTONES, ELBERT, 06/11/2009, P,  
ELBERTON, ELBERT, 06/11/2009, O, ELBERT CTY H/S

ELBERTON, ELBERT, 06/12/2009, O,  
NANCY HART PK, ELBERT, 06/12/2009, P,  
NORMAN COMM, WILKES, 06/12/2009, P,  
TIGNALL, WILKES, 06/12/2009, P,

CALLAWAY COMM,WILKES,06/12/2009,P,  
RAYLE,WILKES,06/12/2009,P,  
WASHINGTON,WILKES,06/12/2009,O,WASH-WILKES H/S

WASHINGTON,WILKES,06/13/2009,O,  
SANDTOWN COMM,WILKES,06/13/2009,P,  
DANBURG COMM,WILKES,06/13/2009,P,  
CHENNAULT COMM,LINCOLN,06/13/2009,P,  
GOSHEN COMM,LINCOLN,06/13/2009,P,  
LINCOLNTON,LINCOLN,06/13/2009,P,  
ELIJAH CLARK PK,LINCOLN,06/13/2009,P,  
MCCORMICK, SC,SC: MCCORMICK,06/13/2009,EOR,SAVANNAH LAKES