

2010

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia was a loop ride, beginning and ending in Fayetteville, with stops in Griffin, Thomaston, Columbus (layover town), LaGrange, and Newnan. Ride Director Vicki Thompson and CEO Jerry Colley, Office Manager Roz Moore, along with many volunteers, coordinated activities for 1110 riders who endured a hot week in Georgia during the summer. Every day except the last day offered a Hammerhead Option with additional mileage for those who couldn't get enough cycling on the regular route. Technical support was provided by Cycleworks and Free Flite for the week, and Special Olympics Georgia once again provided volunteers for the much-appreciated rest stops.

### **Day 1 - 57 miles, Fayetteville to Griffin**

Immediately upon departure from Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, cyclists rode past the mansion of boxing great Evander Holyfield. Riders passed through the towns of Woolsey, Hampton, and Sunnyside on their journey to Griffin. They also got a glimpse of Atlanta Motor Speedway and might have been tempted to try their cycling skills on the banked track, except the fee AMS officials wanted to charge BRAG for the privilege was also rather steep. Home for the night was Spalding High School. The city of Griffin had an exciting Wild West evening downtown with music and dancing.

### **Day 2 - 51 miles, Griffin to Thomaston**

Monday's shorter ride also proved hillier than Day 1. In addition, there were several miles of shake-n-bake pavement, the bane of every cyclist's existence. It was a trade-off, however, for the low-traffic and mostly scenic route through the towns of Orchard Hill, Goggans, Barnesville, and Yatesville. Some riders made it into Thomaston well before noon and the heat of the day, where the Thomaston-Upson Civic Center and Upson-Lee Middle School served as hosts. A few youngsters cooled off on the slip-n-slide provided by BRAG and coordinated by Roz Moore. In-town entertainment included live bands and a carnival atmosphere, where BRAG riders feasted on such delicacies as roasted corn and Italian ice.

### **Day 3 - 67 miles, Thomaston to Columbus**

The highlight of Tuesday's ride for many cyclists was the 4-mile mostly downhill run to the Flint River. Most relished the speed as they headed to the river, even knowing there was a payback coming. Many stopped on the bridge to enjoy the view of the river before beginning the arduous climb up the other side on their way to the towns of Talbotton, Waverly Hall, and Midland. Riders' skills (and patience) were tested on a particularly rough patch of

road filled with potholes, loose gravel, and sand. On the flip side, however, an optional detour onto a newly constructed (and not quite finished) bike path took riders out of the city traffic at the end of the day's ride. Columbus State University's Corn Art Center for the Visual Arts hosted riders for two nights, as Columbus served as the week's layover point. Downtown Columbus provided entertainment for the riders with an excellent band and wonderful restaurants within walking distance of the Corn Center.

#### **Day 4 - 103 or 55 or 31 or 17 or 0 miles, layover day in Columbus**

On the day of BRAG's traditional Century Ride, riders had a plethora of choices for ride length. Some chose not to ride at all and spent the day relaxing by the Chattahoochee River or shopping in town. Others visited the Infantry Museum on Ft. Benning. There were many shops and restaurants within walking distance of the Corn Center, and several businesses offered special deals for cyclists. For those who did venture out to ride, the day's route began and ended very pleasantly on the Riverwalk Path. The longer routes took riders onto Fort Benning, where they passed through a military checkpoint and got to experience Cardiac Hill. The first and last rest stops of the day were at Columbus State University's Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center. During the evening, the riders enjoyed either the band downtown or Indescribable Moonbase hosted by Michael Lachowski.

#### **Day 5 - 63 miles, Columbus to LaGrange**

Heat and challenging terrain combined for a tough Thursday ride through Hamilton and West Point en route to West Side Magnet Middle School, where BRAG was headquartered for the night. LaGrange College also provided ample camping space, as well as showers. The day's route offered scenic views to help take riders' minds off the heat. A patriotic bale of hay provided a "Kodak moment," and many riders stopped to take photos. Dinner and entertainment in town were only a short shuttle ride away. BRAG riders strolled through town, and some cooled off by the fountain in the town square.

#### **Day 6 - 62 miles, LaGrange to Newnan**

Friday took BRAG riders to the familiar confines of Newnan High School, site of Georgia BikeFest by BRAG for many years. After traveling through Franklin, Hogansville, and Grantville (except for those who opted for the 20-mile shortcut), riders were shuttled to town (or walked if their sisters made them) for a wide variety of restaurants from which to choose. Riders enjoyed the

last evening on BRAG with a party at the old Waterworks Park. Downtown Newnan provided a band and beer.

**Day 7 - 42 miles, Newnan to Fayetteville**

Like horses headed to the barn, most BRAG riders finished the relatively short End of the Road ride from Newnan back to the starting point in Fayetteville well before noon. At Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, BRAG participants were treated to a delicious post-ride meal provided by Mama Ralphael. Riders 15 and younger and older than 65 received gold medals to commemorate their accomplishments. Everyone departed with very pleasant memories of another BRAG, already looking forward to 2011.

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

FAYETTEVILLE, FAYETTE, 06/05/2010, O, OUR LADY MERCY H/S

FAYETTEVILLE, FAYETTE, 06/06/2010, O,  
WOOLSEY, FAYETTE, 06/06/2010, P,  
NONE, CLAYTON, 06/06/2010, P,  
HAMPTON, HENRY, 06/06/2010, P, ATL MOTOR SPWAY  
SUNNYSIDE, SPALDING, 06/06/2010, P,  
GRIFFIN, SPALDING, 06/06/2010, O, SPALDING H/S

GRIFFIN, SPALDING, 06/07/2010, O,  
ORCHARD HILL, SPALDING, 06/07/2010, P,  
JOHNSTONVILLE, LAMAR, 06/07/2010, P,  
GOGGANS, LAMAR, 06/07/2010, P,  
BARNESVILLE, LAMAR, 06/07/2010, P,  
YATESVILLE, UPSON, 06/07/2010, P,  
THOMASTON, UPSON, 06/07/2010, O, UPSON CIVIC CTR & UPSON LEE M/S

THOMASTON, UPSON, 06/08/2010, O,  
TALBOTTON, TALBOT, 06/08/2010, P,  
WAVERLY HALL, HARRIS, 06/08/2010, P,  
ELLERSLIE, HARRIS, 06/08/2010, P,  
COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE, 06/08/2010, O, CORN CENTER

COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE, 06/09/2010, O,  
FT BENNING, MUSCOGEE, 06/09/2010, P,  
COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE, 06/09/2010, O, CORN CENTER  
COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE, 06/10/2010, O,  
HAMILTON, HARRIS, 06/10/2010, P,  
LAGRANGE, TROUP, 06/10/2010, O, WEST SIDE M/S

LAGRANGE, TROUP, 06/11/2010, O,  
FRANKLIN, HEARD, 06/11/2010, P,  
CORINTH COMM, HEARD, 06/11/2010, P,

GRANTVILLE, COWETA, 06/11/2010, P,  
NEWNAN, COWETA, 06/11/2010, O, NEWNAN H/S

NEWNAN, COWETA, 06/12/2010, O,  
TYRONE, FAYETTE, 06/12/2010, P,  
FAYETTEVILLE, FAYETTE, 06/12/2010, EOR, OUR LADY MERCY H/S