



The Greencastle Great Escape

The weather wasn't perfect, but the roads were clear, the scenery was spectacular, the food was great, and the company was beyond compare. The first Greencastle Great Escape drew 15 registered participants plus seven more who drove up from Baltimore, and all agreed it was a great weekend.

Activities began Friday morning, June 12, with our first ride out of Antrim Township Community Park. We all decided to do the “Strawberries and Cream” ride, with a lunch stop at the locally famous Tricking Springs Creamery, where they serve home-style ice cream from “happy, grass-fed cows raised on family farms.” Because of a forecast heat index of 100 degrees (and a newly oiled-and-chipped road) we mixed up our cue sheets, opting to do the longer version of the ride going out and a shorter version coming back. Later that afternoon, Evie and Michael Reinsel hosted a happy hour in their room at the Comfort Inn and we met for supper at the Greencastle Café del Sol.

Saturday morning was a bit overcast and there was rain in the forecast. Even so, six riders drove up from the Baltimore area to ride with us for the day. Most of us chose to ride the “Whitetail Express,” which took us south into Maryland, then back north through Blair Valley past the Whitetail ski resort and the Blue Spring buffalo farm to lunch in Mercersburg. A smaller group opted to take a shorter route to Mercersburg and met us there for lunch. A third group picked the “Apple Way” ride, which took them north into apple orchard country along the base of Front Mountain. Then, purely by chance, all three groups ran into each other on Harshman Road between Marion and Kauffman, and we all returned to Greencastle together. We got a little bit of rain the last couple of miles, but not enough to ruin a great day of riding. Evie and Michael hosted another happy hour, and we later enjoyed an evening meal at The John Allison Public House.

Sunday's forecast called for “severe” thunderstorms in the afternoon. Nevertheless, we decided to take a gamble and ride up to Edenville *via* Fort McCord Road – a route that offered some of the most impressive scenery of the whole weekend. A smaller group took a shorter route to Edenville and we all met up at the UniMart in St. Thomas. We made it back to Greencastle well ahead of the storm, and even had time to stop and take some photos at the Anderson Road covered bridge.

All of us had a great time, and we even gained a pound or two – except, that is, for Steve Zeldin who never gains weight.

Phil Manger



Anderson Stone Bridge



Anderson Covered Bridge



East of Edenville